The Bible Journey

Archaeological, Geographic and Historical Confirmation for the Bible

Part II – The New Testament

"For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount." 2 Peter 1:16-18 (KJV)

Compiled by Timothy Hartley

THE BIBLE JOURNEY – NEW TESTAMENT

	The Evidence (Locations & Artifacts)	Biblical Passage	Location	Google Earth Coordinates
PART 1: BIRTH AND EARLY LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST				
1	The Possible home of Mary in Nazareth (Basilica of the Annunciation) [6 BC]	Luke 1:26-38	Nazareth, Galilee, Israel	32°42'7.61"N, 35°17'51.63"E
2	The Spring of Mary in Nazareth (Orthodox Church of the Annunciation) [6 BC]	Luke 1:26-38	Nazareth, Galilee, Israel	32°42'25.40"N, 35°18'5.64"E
3	The Well of Mary in Nazareth (Fountain of the Virgin) [6 BC]	Luke 1:26-38	Nazareth, Galilee, Israel	32°42'23.92"N, 35°18'5.62"E
4	The tombstone of Q. Aemilius Secundus	Luke 2:1-2	Venice, Italy	45°26'0.83"N, 12°20'16.04"E
5	The Star of Bethlehem [5 BC]	Matthew 2:1-10	Google Sky: Constellation Leo: 11h 00m 00s, +15° 00' 00	
6	The Ruins of King Herod's palace in Jerusalem [5 BC]	Matthew 2:1	Jerusalem, Israel, Old Kishle Prison	31°46'33.90"N, 35°13'40.93"E
7	The Herodium and Tomb of King Herod [4 BC]	Matthew 2:19-20	Za'tara, Palestinian Territories	31°39'57.84"N, 35°14'31.51"E
8	Sarcophagus of King Herod at the Israel Museum	Matthew 2:19-20	Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'19.39"N, 35°12'14.73"E
9	The Church of the Nativity - 4th century church [5 BC]	Luke 2:4-7	Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories	31°42'15.59"N, 35°12'27.21"E
10	The Graveyard of the Innocents beneath the Church [5 BC / 320 AD]	Matthew 2:16-18	Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories	31°42'15.59"N, 35°12'27.21"E
11	The Cave of the Shepherds in Bethlehem [5 BC]	Luke 2:8-12	Bayt Sahur, West Bank	31°41'36.46"N, 35°13'53.84"E
12	The Bed where Jesus slept as a toddler in Egypt, now an Altar [4-1 BC]	Matthew 2:20	Al-Muharraq Monastery, Egypt	27° 26' 40" N, 30° 49' 0" E
13	The Possible Family Home of Jesus in Nazareth [1 BC – 28 AD]	Matthew 2:23	Nazareth, Israel	32°42'8.60"N, 35°17'50.32"E
PART 2: BAPTISM & TEMPTATION OF JESUS CHRIST				
14	The Madaba Map of the Holy Land [560 AD]	John 1:28	Madaba, Jordan	31°43'3.26"N, 35°47'39.25"E
15	The Place of Jesus' Baptism [26 AD]	Matthew 3:13-17	Al-Maghtas, Jordan	31°50'14.33"N, 35°33'0.24"E
16	The Home of John the Baptist and Elijah's Hill [26 AD]	Matthew 3:1-2	Al-Maghtas, Jordan	31°50'10.43"N, 35°33'10.25"E
17	The Place of Jesus' Temptation for 40 days [26 AD]	Matthew 4:1-11	Mount Quarantania, West Bank	31° 52' 26" N, 35° 25' 53" E
18	The Place of John the Baptist's Execution – Machaerus [29 AD]	Matthew 14:1-12	Madaba Region, Jordan	31°34'1.93"N, 35°37'28.17"E
PART 3: MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST IN GALILEE & BEYOND				
19	Cana where Jesus did His first Miracle - Catholic Wedding Church [26 AD]	John 2:1-11	Kafr Khanna, Galilee, Israel	32°44'49.06"N, 35°20'19.45"E
20	Cana where Jesus did His first Miracle - Khirbet Qana [26 AD]	John 2:1-11	Netofa Valley, Galilee, Israel	32°49'19.55"N, 35°18'9.92"E
21	Synagogue in Nazareth Where Jesus Preached [27 AD]	Luke 4:16-27	Nazareth, Galilee, Israel	32° 42' 12" N, 35° 17' 48" E
22	Mount Precipice in Nazareth where Jesus rejected [27 AD]	Luke 4:28-30	Nazareth, Galilee, Israel	32°41'6.00"N, 35°17'54.55"E
23	The Place of the Call of the First Disciples [27 AD]	Matthew 4:18-22	Capernaum, Galilee, Israel	32°53'12.30"N, 35°35'21.29"E
24	The Galilee 1st Century Fishing Boat {27 AD]	Mark 4:1	Ginosar, Galilee, Israel	32°50'39.49"N, 35°31'30.61"E
25	Place of the Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes [29 AD]	Matt. 14:13-21	Tabgha, Galilee, Israel	32°52'23.75"N, 35°32'54.84"E
26	Black Basalt 1st Century Synagogue in Capernaum [27 AD]	Mark 1:21-28	Capernaum, Galilee, Israel	32°52'51.40"N, 35°34'31.46"E
27	Peter and Andrew's home in Capernaum [27 AD]	Matthew 8:5, 14	Capernaum, Galilee, Israel	32°52'49.30"N, 35°34'31.45"E
28	The Mount of the Beatitudes [27 AD]	Matthew 5-7	Near Capernaum, Galilee, Israel	32°52'55.63"N, 35°33'18.99"E
29	The City of Nain where Jesus raised a man from the dead [27 AD]	Luke 7:11-17	Nein, Galilee, Israel	32°37'60.00"N, 35°21'0.00"E
30	Bethsaida where Blind man healed [27 AD]	Mark 8:22-26	Northeast of Sea of Galilee, Israel	32°54'32.33"N, 35°37'51.52"E
31	The Place of the Deliverance of the Demon Possessed Men [27 AD]	Matthew 8:28-34	Kursi, Galilee, Israel	32°49'22.00"N, 35°39'9.94"E
32	The Mount of Transfiguration – Mount Tabor [27 AD]	Matthew 17:1-9	Mount Tabor, Galilee, Israel	32°41'13.61"N, 35°23'25.38"E
33	Jacob's Well in Samaria [27 AD]	John 4:1-26	Nablus, West Bank	32°12'42.74"N, 35°16'39.71"E
34	Caesarea Philippi where Peter declared Jesus as Messiah [27 AD]	Matt. 16:13-19	Banias, Golan Heights, Israel	33°14'46.32"N, 35°41'38.79"E
35	The Place where Jesus called Zacchaeus [27 AD]	Luke 19:1-10	Jericho, West Bank	31°51'33.01"N, 35°27'25.64"E
36	The Tomb of Lazarus in Bethany [29 AD]	John 11:1-44	Al-Eizariya, West Bank	31°46'11.94"N, 35°15'51.63"E
37	The Pool of Bethesda [29 AD]	John 5:1-9	Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'53.04"N, 35°14'8.88"E
38	The Pool of Siloam [29 AD]	John 9:1-5	Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'13.18"N, 35°14'7.19"E
39	The Fallen Tower of Siloam [30 AD]	Luke 13:1-9	City of David, Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'22.73"N, 35°14'11.00"E
40	Roman Denarius of Tiberius Caesar [30 AD]	Matt. 22:15-22	Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'19.39"N, 35°12'14.73"E
41	Evidence for Herod's Temple – Temple Warning Inscription [30 AD]	Matthew 24:1-2	Istanbul Archeology Museum, Turkey	41°0'39.14"N, 28°58'53.97"E
42	Evidence for Herod's Temple – Floor tiles discovered [19 BC]	Matthew 24:1-2	Temple Mount, Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'40.60"N, 35°14'7.44"E
43	Ossuary of James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus [50s AD]	Matt. 13:55-56	Undisclosed location	31°46'7.41"N, 35°14'9.91"E
PART 4: FINAL DAYS OF JESUS CHRIST ON EARTH				
44	Place where Jesus Wept Over Jerusalem [30 AD]	Luke 13:34	Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'40.15"N, 35°14'30.24"E
45	Ossuaries of Simon son of Jonah, Mary , Martha and Sapphira [60s AD]	Luke 10:38-42	Flagellation Monastery, Jerusalem	31°46'49.71"N, 35°14'3.17"E
46	The Gate of the Triumphal Entry of Jesus [30 AD]	Matthew 21:1-11	Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'44.13"N, 35°14'14.03"E
47	The Place of the Last Supper and Pentecost [30 AD]	Luke 22:7-13	Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'17.74"N, 35°13'44.68"E
48	The Garden of Gethsemane [30 AD]	Matthew 26:36	Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'43.93"N, 35°14'23.31"E
49	Where Jesus was held captive at Caiaphas' House	Luke 22:60-62	St. Peter in Gallicantu, Jerusalem	31° 46' 17" N, 35° 13' 55" E
50	Herod's Palace, Jerusalem where Jesus tried [30 AD]	Matt. 27:11-14	Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'33.90"N, 35°13'40.93"E
51	The Traditional Place of Crucifixion and Resurrection [30 AD]	John 19:41	Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'42.54"N, 35°13'46.55"E
52	Gordon's Calvary or Golgotha [30 AD]	Mark 15:22-24	North of Jerusalem, Israel	31°47'1.22"N, 35°13'52.20"E
53	Place of Crucifixion near Gordon's Calvary [30 AD]	Mark 15:22-24	North of Jerusalem, Israel	31°47'0.87"N, 35°13'50.48"E
54	Evidence of Crucifixion – pierced heelbone of crucifixion victim	Mark 15:22-24	Jerusalem, Israel	31°48'11.17"N, 35°13'51.89"E
55	The Garden Tomb [30 AD]	John 19:41-42	North of Jerusalem, Israel	31°47'0.87"N, 35°13'50.48"E
56	The Caiaphas Ossuary [30 AD]	Matthew 26:3-4	Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'19.39"N, 35°12'14.73"E
57	The Pontius Pilate Inscription [30 AD]	Matthew 27:2,11	Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'19.39"N, 35°12'14.73"E

58	The Shroud of Turin [30 AD]	John 19:40	John the Baptist Cath., Turin, Italy	45°4'23.65"N, 7°41'8.13"E
59	The Sudarium of Oveido [33 AD]	John 20:6-7	Cathedral of San Salvador, Oveido, Spain	43°21'45.3" N, 5°50'35.09"W
60	Ossuary of Alexander, son of Simon of Cyrene [30 AD]	Mark 15:21	South of Silwan, Jerusalem	31°46'5.52"N, 35°13'59.98"E
61	The Nazareth Inscription [30s AD]	Matt. 28:11-15	Now in the Louvre, Paris, France	48°51'37.06"N, 2°20'17.97"E
62	Akeldama – The Place where Judas hanged himself [30 AD]	Matthew 27:3-10	South of Silwan, Jerusalem	31°46'5.80"N, 35°13'59.55"E
63	The Place where Jesus Reinstated Peter [30 AD]	John 21:1-19	Taghba, Galilee, Israel	32°52'18.68"N, 35°33'1.44"E
64	The Place of the Ascension of Jesus Christ [30 AD]	Acts 1:9-12	Al-Tur Village, Jerusalem	31°46'44.04"N, 35°14'42.42"E
PART 5: THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES				
65	The Place of the Stoning of St. Stephen, the First Martyr [32 AD]	Acts 7:54-60	Jerusalem, Israel	31°47'4.78"N, 35°13'46.06"E
66	Straight Street in Damascus and House of Ananias [34 AD]	Acts 9:10-12	Damascus, Syria	33°30'41.32"N, 36°19'2.53"E
67	The Bab Kisan (Where Paul was let down in a basket) [37 AD]	Acts 9:23-25	Damascus, Syria	33°30'23.79"N, 36°18'55.92"E
68	The Cave Church at Antioch in Syria [47 AD]	Acts 11:25-26	Antakya, Hatay Province, Turkey	36°12'32.73"N, 36°10'42.02"E
69	The Pillar of St. Paul in Paphos	Acts 13:6-12	Paphos Archaeological Park, Cyprus	34° 45' 20.4" N, 32° 24' 15" E
70	The Sergius Paulus Inscription in Cyprus [47 AD]	Acts 13:6-12	Soli, Cyprus	35° 8'28.66"N, 32°48'44.07"E
71	Synagogue in Pisidian Antioch where Paul Preached [47 AD]	Acts 13:14-52	1 Km NE of Yalvac, Ispala, Turkey	38°18'23.53"N, 31°11'14.57"E
72	Ancient Lystra where Paul was Stoned [48 AD]	Acts 14:8-20	Gokyurt, Konya, Turkey	37°39'52.89"N, 32°12'38.39"E
73	The Place of Lydia's Baptism near Philippi [50 AD]	Acts 16:13-15	On River Zygakti, Kavala, Greece	41° 1'14.39"N, 24°16'34.30"E
74	The Prison at Philippi [50 AD]	Acts 16:16-40	Ancient Philippi (Filipos), Greece	41° 0'48.18"N, 24°17'1.40"E
75	The City of Thessalonica [51 AD]	Acts 17:1-4	Thessaloniki, Greece	40°38'14.03"N, 22°56'45.78"E
76	The City of Berea [51 AD]	Acts 17:10-15	Veria, Greece	40°31'6.90"N, 22°11'59.82"E
77	The Areopagus (Mars Hill) in Athens [51 AD]	Acts 17:19-22	Athens, Greece	37°58'20.31"N, 23°43'24.05"E
78	The Gallio Inscription [51 AD]	Acts 18:12-17	Temple of Apollo, Delphi, Greece	38°28'57.60"N, 22°30'7.63"E
79	The judgement seat (BEMA) in Corinth [51 AD]	Acts 18:12-17	Archaea Korinthos, Greece	37°54'20.53"N, 22°52'45.84"E
80	The Erastus Inscription in Corinth [53 AD]	Romans 16:23	Archaea Korinthos, Greece	37°54'25.59"N, 22°52'38.93"E
81	The Great Theatre of Ephesus and Silver Shrines of Diana [57 AD]	Acts 19:23-29	Selcuk, Izmir, Turkey	37°56'27.76"N, 27°20'32.48"E
82	Caesarea Maritima where Paul imprisoned [58-60 AD]	Acts 19:23-29	Caesarea, Israel	32°30'3.92"N, 34°53'32.32"E
83	The Anchor of Paul's Grain Ship [c. 60 AD]	Acts 27:6-44	Malta Maritime Museum	35°53'16.72"N, 14°31'14.79"E
84	The Mamertine Prison in Rome [c. 62 - 67 AD]	2 Timothy 1:8	Ancient Rome, Italy	41°53'35.69"N, 12°29'4.19"E
PART 6: THE PLACES OF MARTYRDOM OF THE APOSTLES				
85	The Home of Mary in Ephesus [c. 41 AD]	John 19:26	Orman Yolu Park, Turkey	37°54'43.14"N, 27°19'57.65"E
86	The Tomb of the Blessed Mary	John 19:26	Kidron Valley, Jerusalem, Israel	31°46' 48"N, 35°14' 23"E
87	The place of the death of the Apostle James son of Zebedee [c. 44 AD]	Matthew 10:1-4	Church St. James, Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'27.48"N, 35°13'44.08"E
88	The burial place of the Apostle James in Spain	Acts 12:1-2	Santiago de Compostela, Spain	42°52'50.17"N, 8°32'39.76"W
89	The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Matthew [c.60 AD]	Matthew 10:1-4	Napata/Jebel Barkal, Sudan	18°32'10.12"N, 31°49'42.74"E
90	The burial place of the Apostle Matthew	Matthew 9:9	Crypt in Salerno Cathedral, Italy	40°40'48.44"N, 14°45'36.62"E
91	The place of the death of the Apostle James son of Alphaeus [c. 62 AD]	Matthew 10:1-4	Ostrakine (El Flusiat), Egypt	31° 7'3.85"N, 33°25'54.01"E
92	The burial place of the Apostle James son of Alphaeus & Philip	John 12:24	Santi Apostoli Church, Rome, Italy.	41°53'53.18" N,12°28'59.54"E
93	The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle St.Simon Peter [c. 64-68 AD]	Matthew 10:1-4	Clementine Chapel, Vatican City	41°54'7.92"N, 12°27'11.88"E
94	The burial place of the Apostle St. Simon Peter Possible burial in ossuary of St. Peter Mount of Olives	John 12:24	St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City Flagellation Monastery, Jerusalem	41°54'7.92"N, 12°27'11.88"E 31°46'49.93"N, 35°14'3.72"E
95	The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Paul [c. 67 AD]	2 Timothy 4:6-7	3 Fountains Church, Rome, Italy	41°50'5.69"N, 12°29'0.74"E
96	The burial place of the Apostle Paul	John 12:24	St. Paul outside the walls, Rome	41° 51' 31" N, 12° 28' 38" E
97	The place of the martyrdom of St. Mark [c. 68 AD]	Acts 15:36-39	St. Mark's Cathedral, Alexandria	31°11'54.43"N, 29°53'57.50"E
98	The burial place of St. Mark	John 12:24	St. Mark's Basilica, Venice, Italy	45° 26' 4" N, 12° 20' 23" E
99	The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle St. Andrew [c. 69 AD]	Matthew 10:1-4	Patras, Greece	38°14'32.30"N, 21°43'38.48"E
100	The place of the burial of the Apostle St. Andrew	John 12:24	Patras, Greece	38°14'32.62"N, 21°43'40.33"E
101	The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Thomas [c. 72 AD]	John 20:24-29	St. Thomas Mt, Chennai, India	13° 0'18.20"N, 80°11'35.90"E
102	The burial place of the Apostle Thomas	Acts 12:24	Mylapore, Chennai, India	13° 2'0.92"N, 80°16'40.03"E
103	The place of the martyrdom and burial of the Apostle Thaddeus [72 AD]	Mark 3:18	Qareh Kelisa, Iran	39° 5'32.00"N, 44°32'40.00"E
104	The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Simon the Zealot [c. 74 AD]	Luke 6:14-16	New Athos, Abkhazia, Georgia	43° 5'25.84"N, 40°48'58.68"E
105	The burial place of the Apostle Simon the Zealot	John 12:24	New Athos, Abkhazia, Georgia	43° 5'17.16"N, 40°49'16.31"E
106	The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Matthias [c. 80 AD]	Acts 1:15-26	Gonio Fortress, Adjara, Georgia	41°34'23.43"N, 41°34'24.72"E
107	The burial place of the Apostle Matthias	Acts 12:42	St. Matthias Abbey, Trier, Germany	49°44'17.67"N, 6°37'55.20"E
108	The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Philip [c. 80 AD]	Matthew 10:1-4	2 Km NE of Pammukale, Turkey	37°55'52.76"N, 29° 7'48.45"E
109	The place of the death of St. Luke [c. 84 AD]	Colossians 4:14	Thiva, Greece	38°18'54.30"N, 23°19'24.81"E
110	The burial place of St. Luke	John 12:24	St. Justina Basilica, Padua, Italy	45°23'46.18"N, 11°52'46.68"E
111	The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Bartholomew [c. 80-100 AD]	Matthew 10:1-4	D. & B. Albayrak Bucagi, Turkey	38° 8'59.92"N, 44°12'46.56"E
PART 7: THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST				
112	The Cave of the Rev. of John at Patmos [95 AD]	Rev. 1:9	Skala, Patmos, Greece	37°18'51.51"N, 26°32'38.92"E
113	Revelation: The Church at Ephesus [95 AD]	Rev. 2:1-7	Selçuk, İzmir Province, Turkey	37°56'19.15"N, 27°20'27.90"E
114	Revelation: The Church at Smyrna [95 AD]	Rev. 2:8-11	İzmir, İzmir Province, Turkey	38°25'7.00"N, 27° 8'21.00"E
115	Revelation: The Church at Pergamum [95 AD]	Rev. 2:12-17	Bergama, Izmir Province, Turkey	39° 7'57.00"N, 27°11'3.00"E
116	Revelation: The Church at Thyatira [95 AD]	Rev. 2:18-29	Akhisar, Manisa Province, Turkey	38°55'12.19"N, 27°50'11.09"E
117	Revelation: The Church at Sardis [95 AD]	Rev. 3:1-6	Sart, Manisa Province, Turkey	38°29'17.78"N, 28° 2'24.70"E
118	Revelation: The Church at Philadelphia [95 AD]	Rev. 3:7-13	Alaşehir, Manisa Province, Turkey	38°20'58.20"N, 28°31'4.74"E
119	Revelation: The Church at Laodicea [95 AD]	Rev. 3:14-22	Eskihisar, Denizli Province, Turkey	37°50'10.57"N, 29° 6'32.49"E
120	The Burial Place of the Apostle John – Died around 100 AD	Matthew 10:1-4	Selçuk, İzmir Province, Turkey	37°57'11.98"N, 27°22'1.39"E

1. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE HOME OF MARY OF NAZARETH

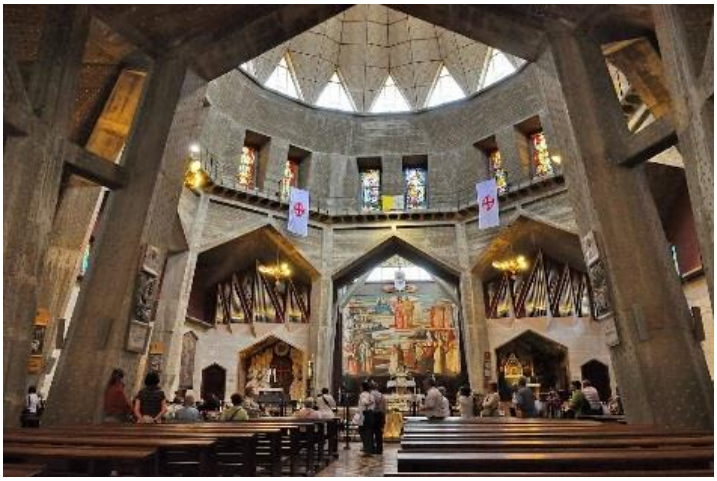
Nazareth, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°42'7.61"N, 35°17'51.63"E

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. Luke 1:26-27 (KJV 2016)

Nazareth was a small town in the first century made of descendants of returned exiles of the tribe of Judah. What is amazing is that Nazareth is within the boundaries of the tribe of Zebulun. 700 years earlier the prophet Isaiah foretold that the Great Light would come to the land of Zebulun in Isaiah 9:1-2. The Catholic Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth was built in 1969 upon the ruins of a 1st century dwelling in Nazareth which is believed to be the home of the Virgin Mary. This home is now called the Grotto of the Annunciation and is believed to be the place where the Angel Gabriel met her and announced to her that she was to be the mother of Jesus Christ. Connected to the Grotto are stairs from a 4th century church which also venerated the site. Above the site are ruins of Byzantine churches which were destroyed, then rebuilt in Crusader times, then destroyed again. Early believers knew this as the place where Mary, the mother of Jesus, lived and grew up. Within the grotto, there is an altar with the following inscription: Verbum Caro Hic Factum Est, which means "Here the Word was made flesh".

Roman Catholic Basilica of the Annunciation, Nazareth

The Grotto of the Annunciation, Basilica of the Annunciation



The Upper Church in the Basilica of the Annunciation

An altar in the Grotto reads "Here the Word was made Flesh"

1
Luke 1:26-38
The Home of Mary
Nazareth, Israel

2. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE SPRING THAT FED NAZARETH'S WELL

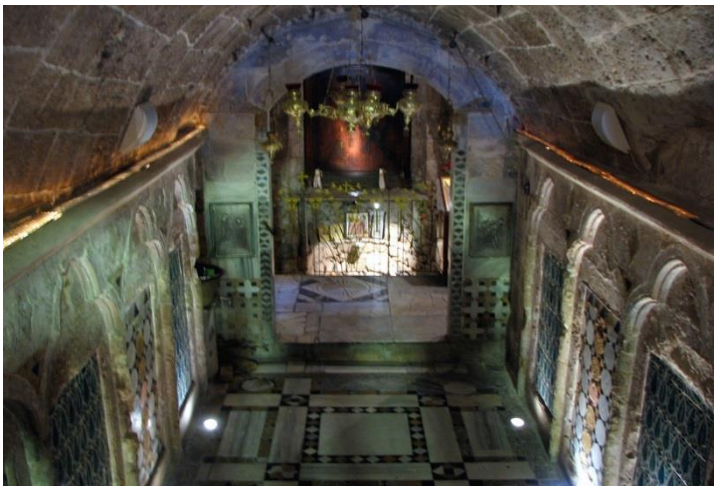
Nazareth, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°42'25.40"N, 35°18'5.64"E

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel went in to her presence and said, "Rejoice, you who are highly favored, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not fear, Mary, because, you have found favor with God. Luke 1:26-30 (KJV 2016)

St. Mary's Spring is located inside the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Gabriel, which was built in 1767 in Nazareth. In the 3rd century a church was initially built around the site of Mary's Spring, based on the belief that this was an important Christian site. Although the New Testament does not record the location of the annunciation, the author of the Protoevangelium of James gives details about the annunciation. "And she took the pitcher and went forth to draw water, and behold, a voice said: 'Hail Mary, full of grace, you are blessed among women.'" According to this account, Mary was at the place to draw water, or a spring of water. This church was built in the Orthodox tradition where the Angel Gabriel met Mary and told her she would be the mother of the Son of God. The Catholic tradition, however, maintains that the site of the annunciation was the home of Mary. This natural spring in St. Gabriel's Church is the source of an ancient well around which the town of Nazareth was built. This is called the Fountain of the Virgin or the Well of Mary.

St. Gabriel's Church of the Annunciation, Nazareth

Beautiful paintings within the church from the life of Christ

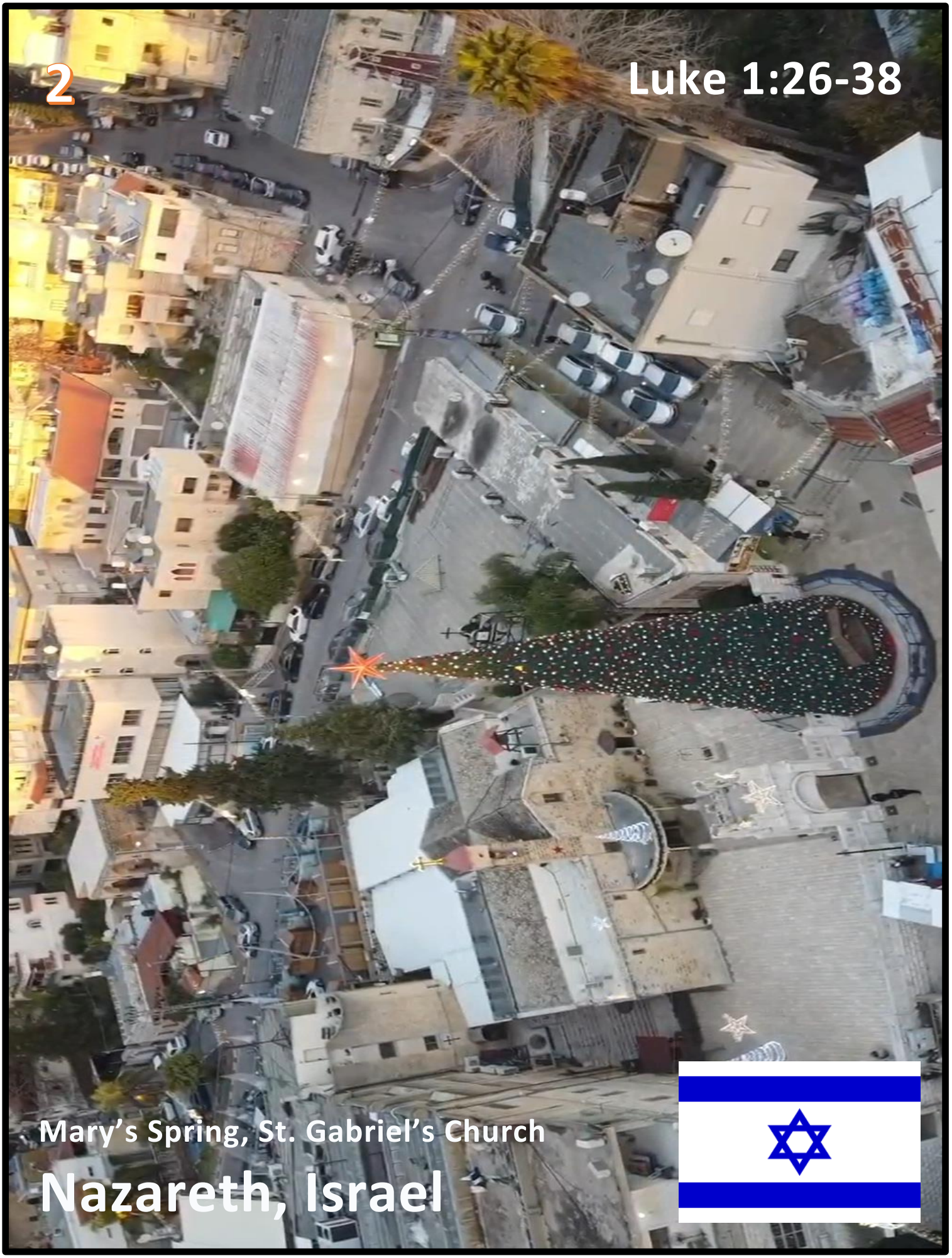


The Corridor Leading to St. Mary's Spring

St. Mary's Spring in St. Gabriel's church

2

Luke 1:26-38



Mary's Spring, St. Gabriel's Church

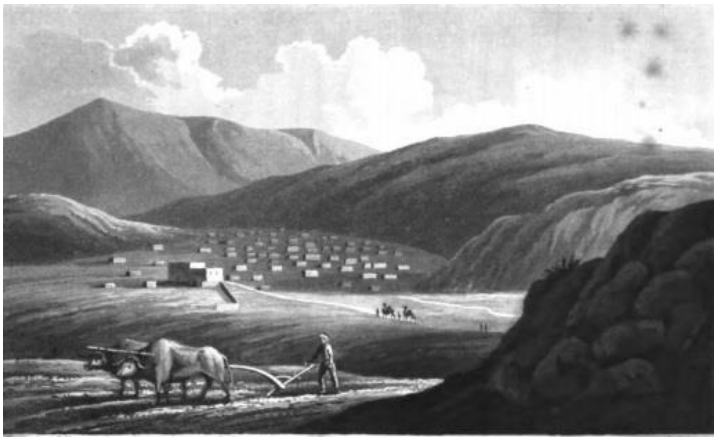
Nazareth, Israel

3. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE WELL IN NAZARETH THAT MARY VISITED

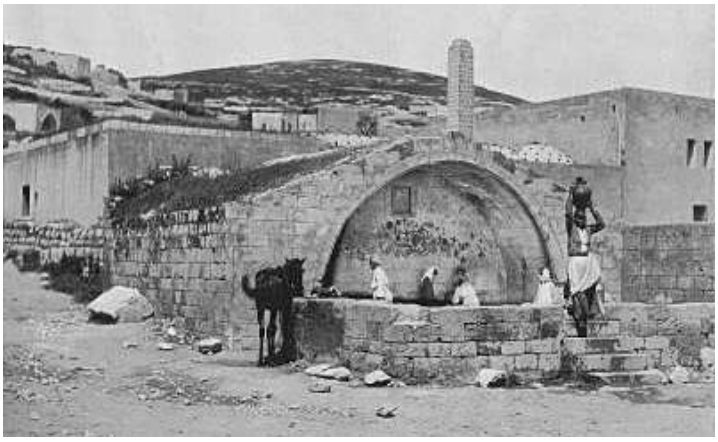
Nazareth, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°42'23.92"N, 35°18'5.62"E

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel went in to her presence and said, "Rejoice, you who are highly favored, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not fear, Mary, because, you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and will call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Luke 1:26-33 (KJV 2016)

In 1824, William Rae Wilson described the "Well of the Virgin" that gave water to the inhabitants of Nazareth which during the time of Jesus would have had a population of around 300. When he visited Nazareth, the population was about 1,500, most of whom were Christians. The house of Mary was there when he visited Nazareth, with the ruins of the Byzantine Monastery of the Annunciation that Empress Helena had built in the 4th century still visible. Women in ancient Israel would come to the well in town once or twice a day. It is likely that Mary came to this well, which is really a trough where water from a spring above (in St. Gabriel's Orthodox Church) would flow down to this well and be collected. The well of Mary structure was built in the 1800s, then demolished in the 1960s and rebuilt, but is no longer functional as of the 1960s.



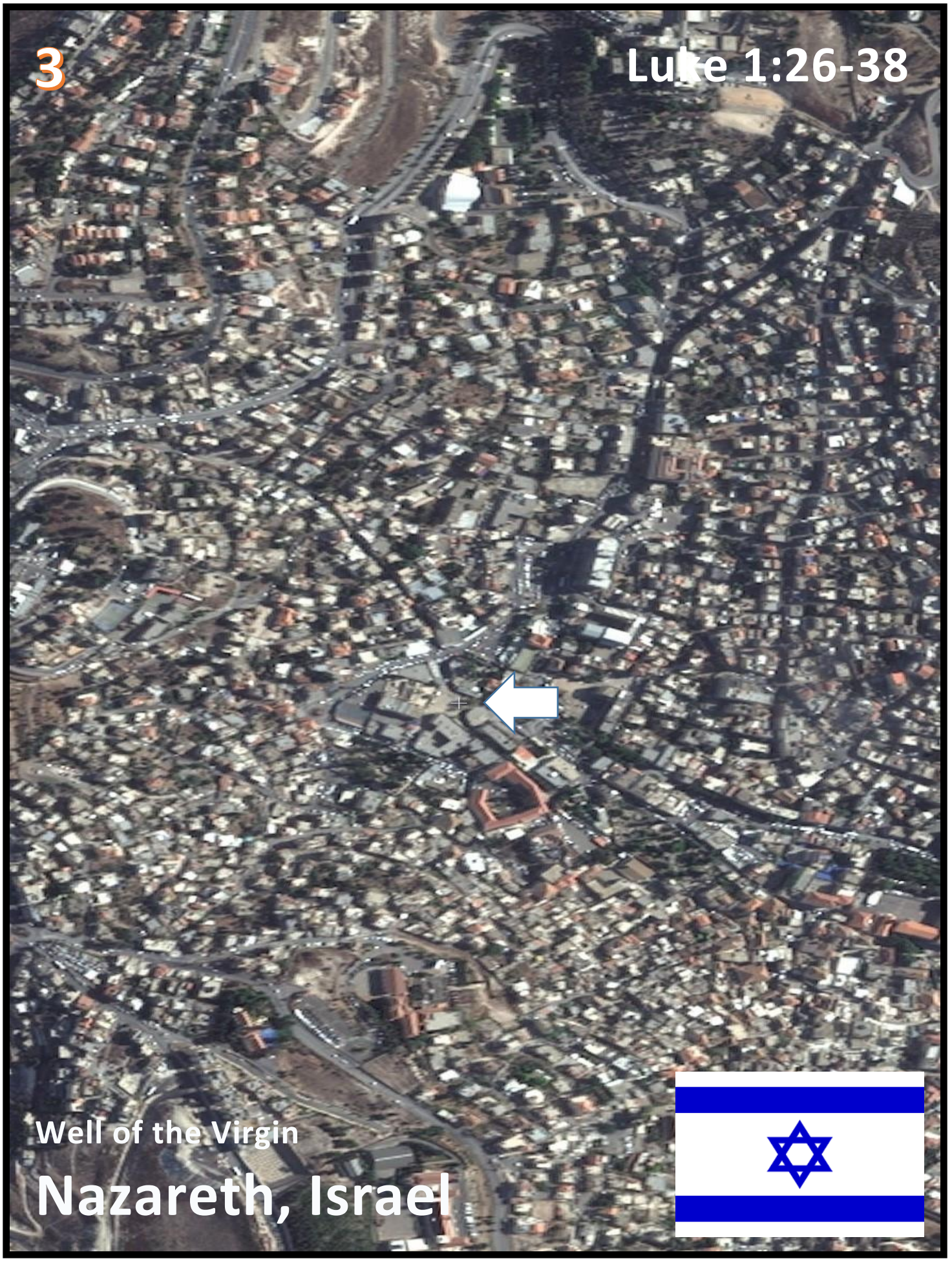
Nazareth as depicted from Wilson's Visit in 1824



Functional Mary's Well, Nazareth, late 1800s

Present-day Mary's well no longer in use

Behind a conduit bringing water from Mary's Spring to Mary's well

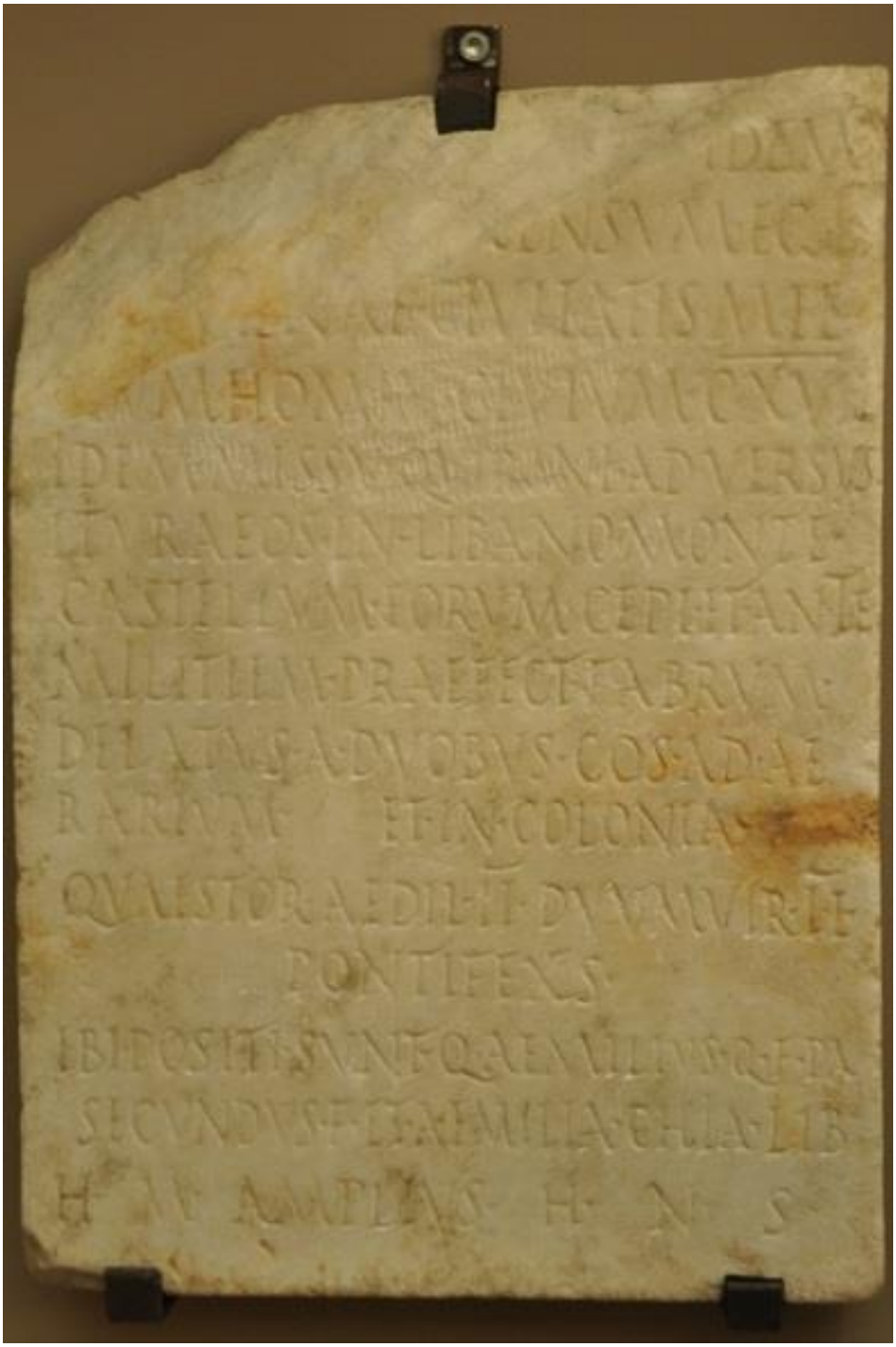

3
Luke 1:26-38
Well of the Virgin
Nazareth, Israel

4. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF THE CENSUS OF CAESAR AUGUSTUS

National Archaeological Museum, Venice, Italy, Google Earth Coordinates: 45° 26'0.83"N, 12° 20'16.04"E

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered for taxation. And this tax registrar first occurred when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Luke 2:1-2 (KJV 2016)

In 1764 construction workers found an interesting tombstone while building the St. George Orthodox Church in Beirut, Lebanon. The tombstone belonged to Quintus Aemilius Secundus and is dated to 20 AD. It mentions how Secundus conducted the census by order of Publius Sulpicius Quirinius during the time of Caesar Augustus and found the city of Apamea to have 117,000 citizens. This confirms the account of Luke 2:1-3 that Caesar Augustus ordered a census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. The tombstone is now located at the Museo archeologico nazionale in Venice, Italy.



Tombstone of Quintus Aemilius Secundus Museo archeologico nazionale in Venice, Italy

"Quintus Aemilius Secundus, son of Quintus, of the Palatina tribe, in military service to the divine Augustus under P. Sulpicius Quirinius, legate of Caesar for Syria, decorated with honors, Prefect of the Cohort I Augustus and Prefect of the Cohort II of the Fleet, By order of the same Quirinius I took a census of the city of Apamea, a town of 117,000 citizens. By the same Quirinius I was sent to fight the Itureans in the Libanus Mountains and I captured their citadel…"

Translation of Latin Text

4

Luke 2:1-2

St. George Orthodox Church

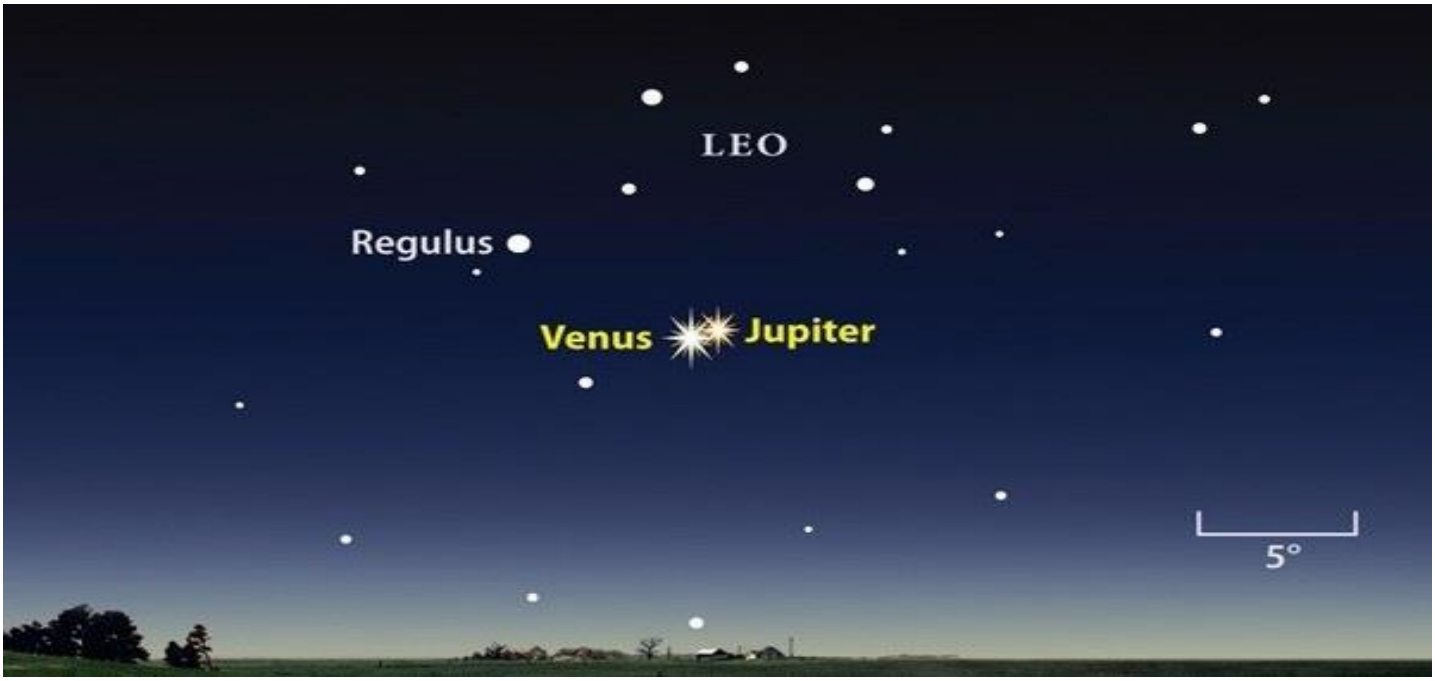
Beirut, Lebanon

5. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Constellation of Leo, Google Sky Coordinates: 11h 00m 00s, +15° 00' 00

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? Since we have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him….After they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the east, went before them, until it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. Matthew 2:1-2, 9-10 (KJV 2016)

In 2007, Dr. Frederick Larson used Starry Night, software based on Kepler's laws of planetary motion, and proposed the theory that the Star of Bethlehem as recorded in Matthew 2:1-10 was in fact the conjunction of the planets Venus and Jupiter with the star Regulus in the constellation of Leo. The conjunction of the three heavenly bodies occurred in June, 2 BC. The Bible also says that the star "stood over" where the young child was—this could be explained by the fact that Jupiter can seem to stop, as from the perspective of Earth it has retrograde motion.



The Bethlehem "Star" – possibly the Conjunction of Venus, Jupiter and Regulus in the Constellation Leo

5

Matthew 2:1-10

Possible “Star” of Bethlehem

Conjunction of Jupiter and Venus

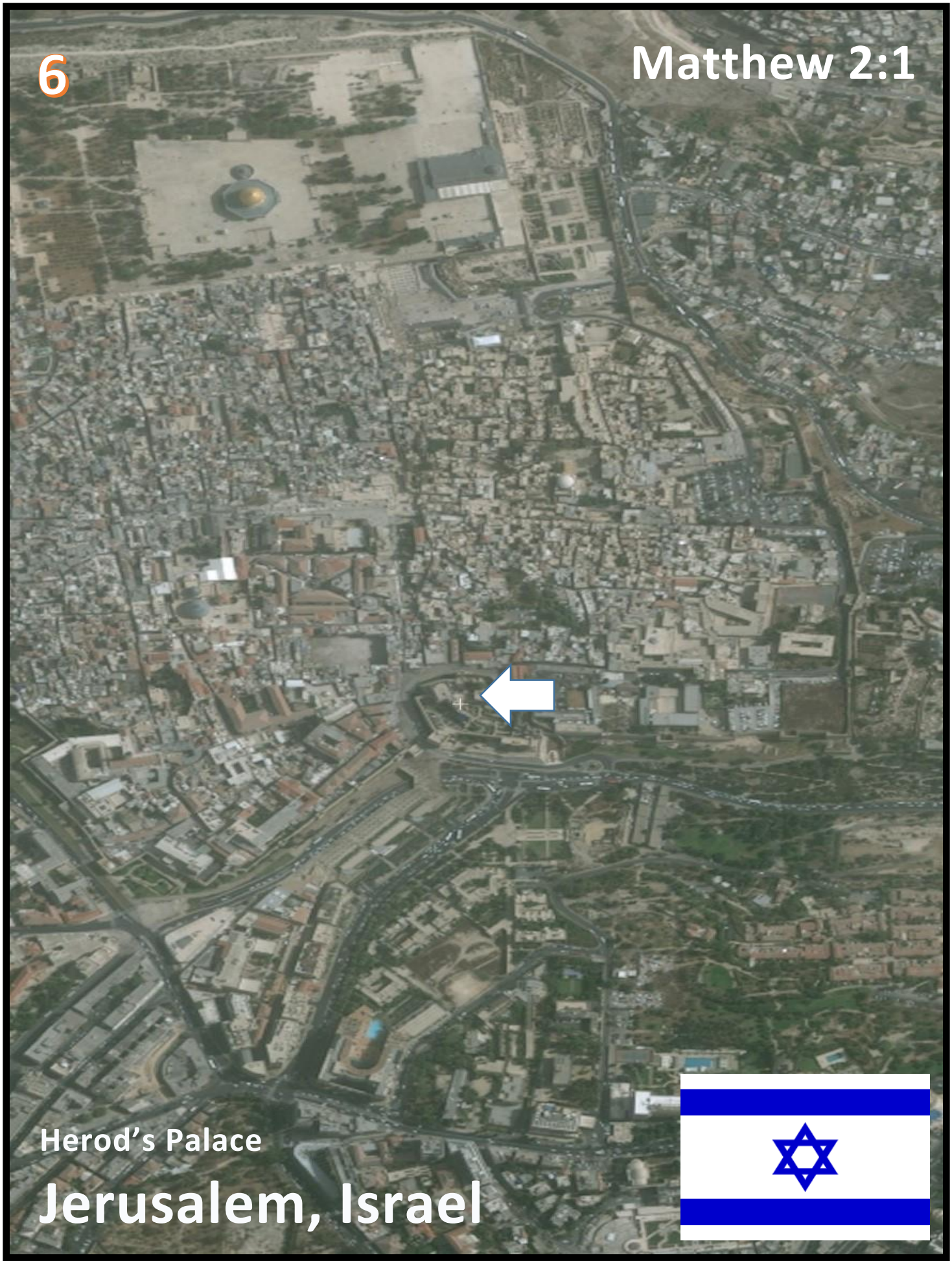
6. THIS IS HEROD THE GREAT'S JERUSALEM PALACE

The Kishle, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'34.20"N, 35°13'41.60"E

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? Since we have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Matthew 2:1-3. (KJV 2016)

In 1999, Israeli archaeologist Amit Re'em, of the Israeli Antiquities Authority, discovered Herod the Great's palace along the western wall of Jerusalem. This discovery was made while excavations were underway within the former Kishle prison building in Jerusalem. This reinforces the geography of Matthew 2:1, which tells of how the Magi from the East came to see Herod the Great at his palace in Jerusalem.

Amit Re'em in the Kishle, Jerusalem


6
Matthew 2:1
Herod's Palace
Jerusalem, Israel

7. THIS IS HEROD'S JUDEAN PALACE

Za'tara, Palestinian Territories. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°39'56.17"N, 35°14'30.20"E

But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, and take the young Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel, because those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Matthew 2:19-20. (KJV 2016)

In 1972, Israeli archaeologist Dr. Ehud Netzer started excavations on the Herodium, an artificial hill built with slave labour. On top was Herod the Great's elaborate palace. In 2007 Netzer discovered Herod the Great's mausoleum and smashed sarcophagus in a tomb monument located partway up the hill. The reconstructed sarcophagus is now located in the Israel Museum, Jerusalem.

The Herodium

The Partially Reconstructed Sarcophagus of King Herod

7
Matthew 2:19-20
The Herodium
Za’tara, Palestinian Territories

Herod’s Tomb
Za’tara, Palestinian Territories

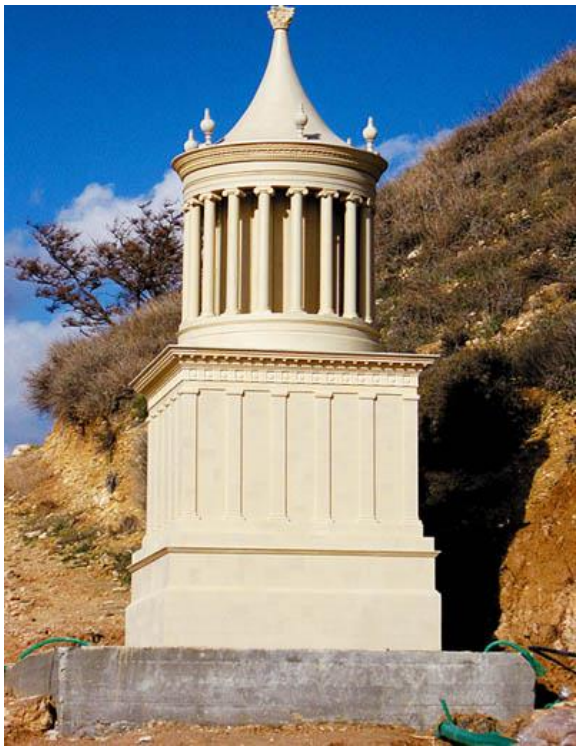
8. THIS IS KING HEROD'S SARCOPHAGUS FOUND WITHIN THE HERODIUM

Israel Museum, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'19.39"N, 35°12'14.73"

But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, and take the young Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel, because those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Matthew 2:19-20. (KJV 2016)

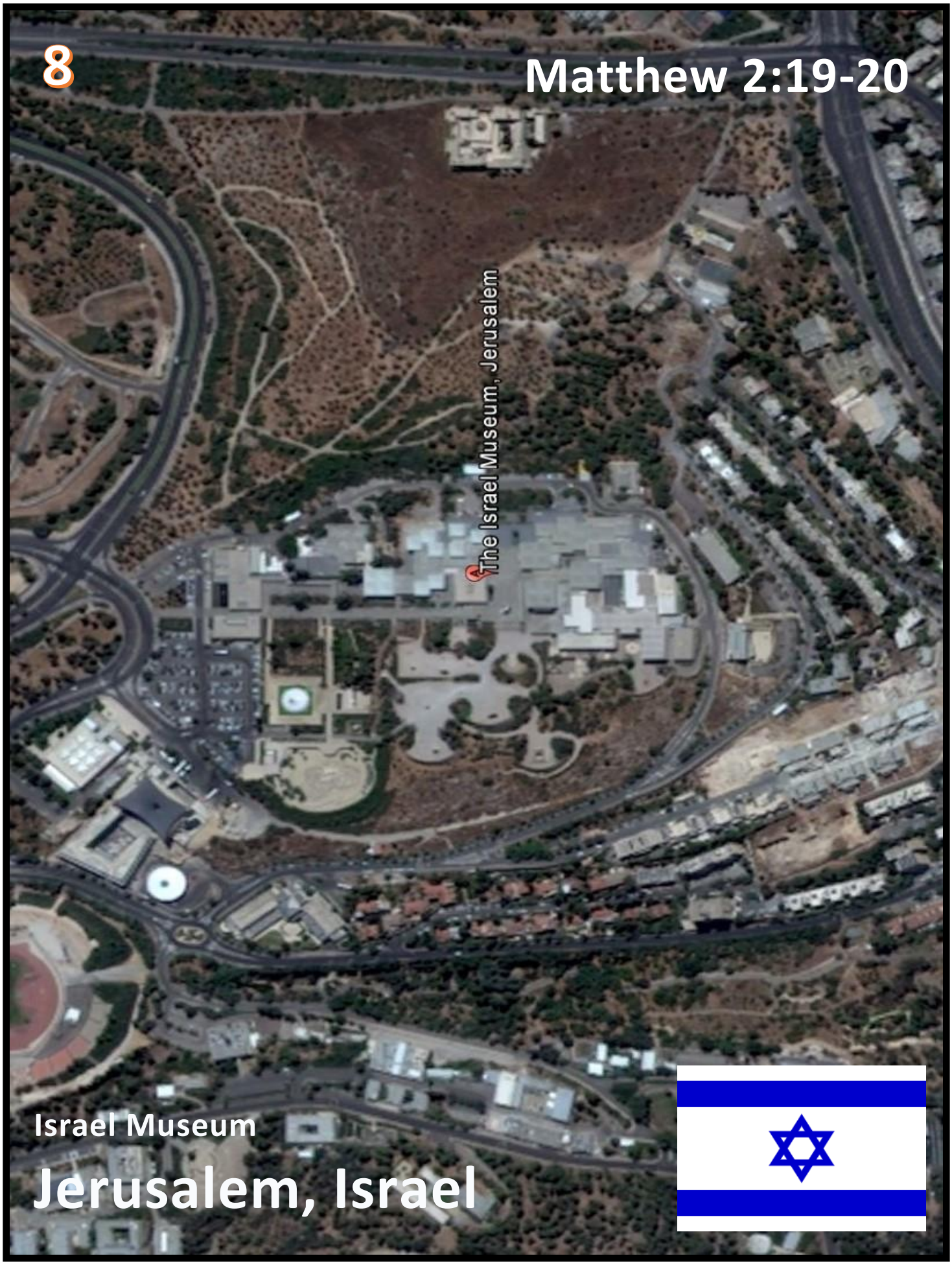
In 2007, after extensive excavations of the Herodium, the tomb and sarcophagus of King Herod was found by Dr. Ehud Netzer halfway up the man-made hill. The sarcophagus was made of well crafted pink limestone. No bones were found in the tomb and it was heavily smashed, most likely by Jewish patriots who resented the Roman appointed Herod and fought against Roman rule in the late 60s AD.

Dr. Netzer posing with the Sarcophagus of Herod



A Model of King Herod's Mausoleum on the Herodium

Herod the Great Exhibit at the Israel Museum


8
Matthew 2:19-20
The Israel Museum, Jerusalem
Israel Museum
Jerusalem, Israel

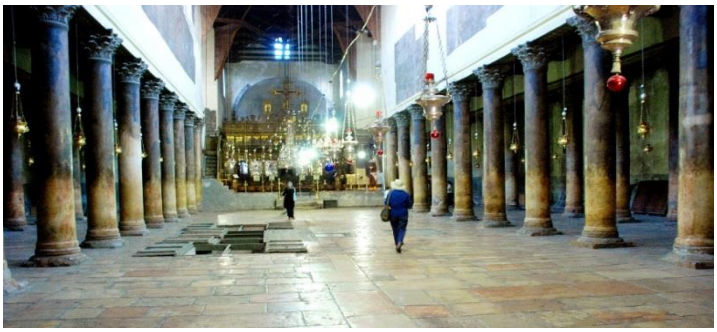
9. THIS IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF JESUS - THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Church of the Holy Nativity, Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°42'15.59"N, 35°12'27.21"E

"Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered for taxation with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was pregnant. And so it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:4-7 (KJV 2016)

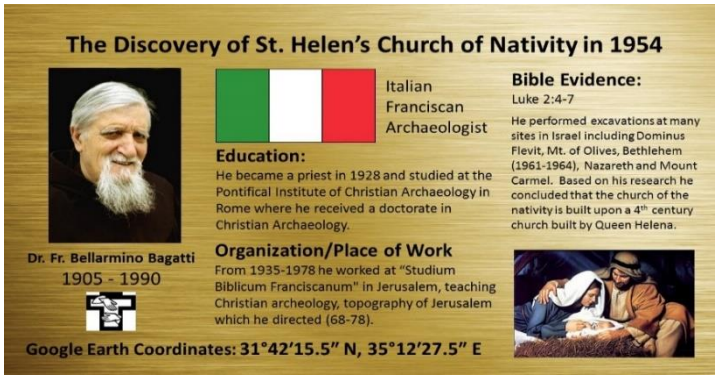
The Prophet Micah prophesied around 700 BC that the ruler in Israel, who was from everlasting, would come from Bethlehem, the birthplace of King David. In 1934, excavations beneath the sanctuary of the Church of the Holy Nativity in Bethlehem were carried out by W. Harvey, E. T. Richmond, H. Vincent, and R. W. Hamilton. Beautiful mosaics from the time of the Emperor Constantine in the 4th century were found. Empress Helena ordered this church to be built in 339 AD, and this church is the oldest church in the world that is still in use to this day. This verifies that this location has been considered to be the place of birth of Jesus Christ for nearly 17 centuries. Within the Church of the Holy Nativity is the Grotto of the Nativity. This was a cave which was typical of stables of the first century. Within the grotto is a first century manger and an altar with a silver 14-pointed star that marks the place of the birth of Jesus. The 14 points represent the 14 generations times 3 from Abraham to Jesus in Matthew's gospel. Pilgrims touch the center of the star and feel the rock of the cave in the place of the birth of the Saviour.

Church of Holy Nativity with Door of Humility



Church of the Holy Nativity

Fourth Century mosaic from original church

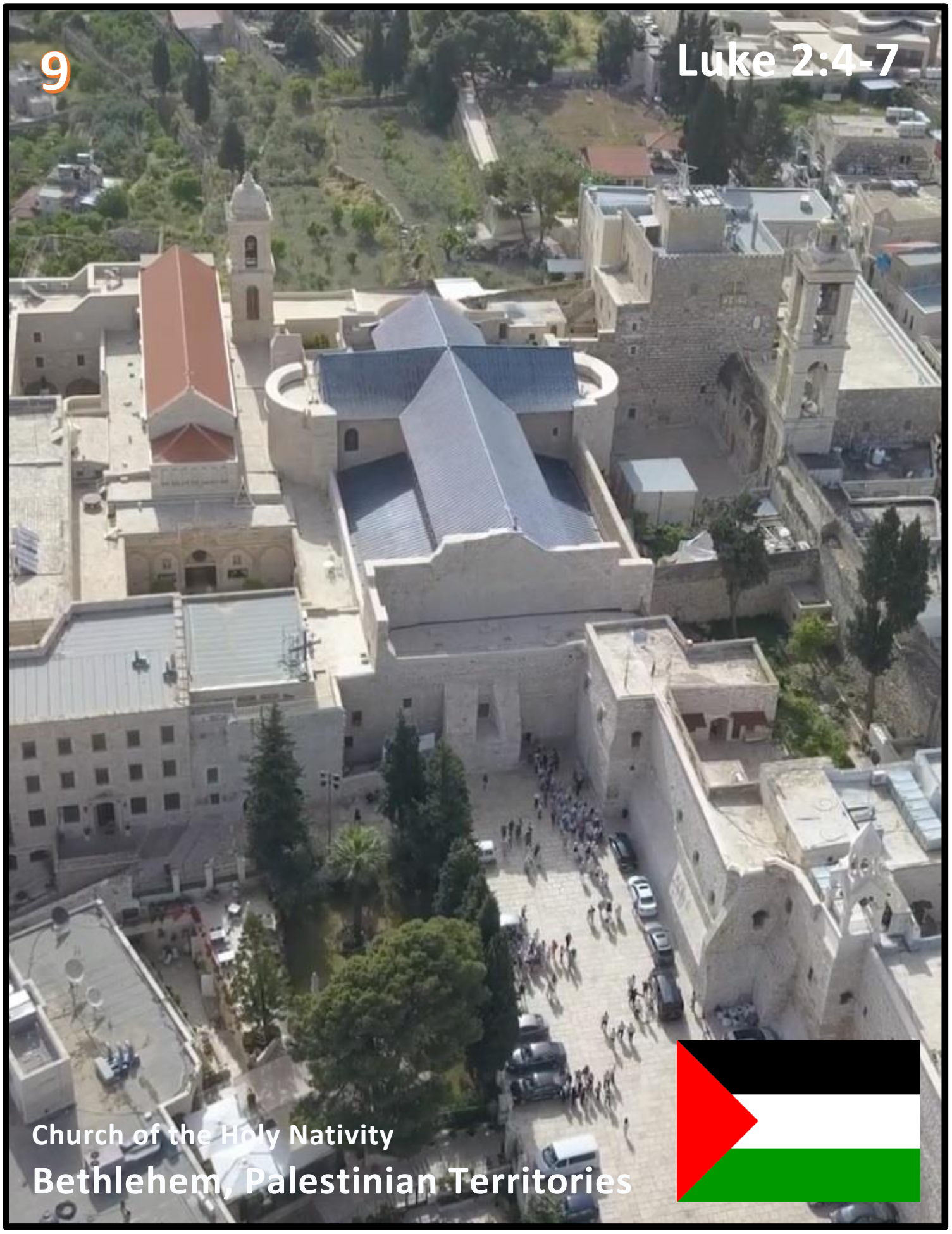


The Grotto of the Nativity

The Star of the Nativity

9

Luke 2:4-7



Church of the Holy Nativity

Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories

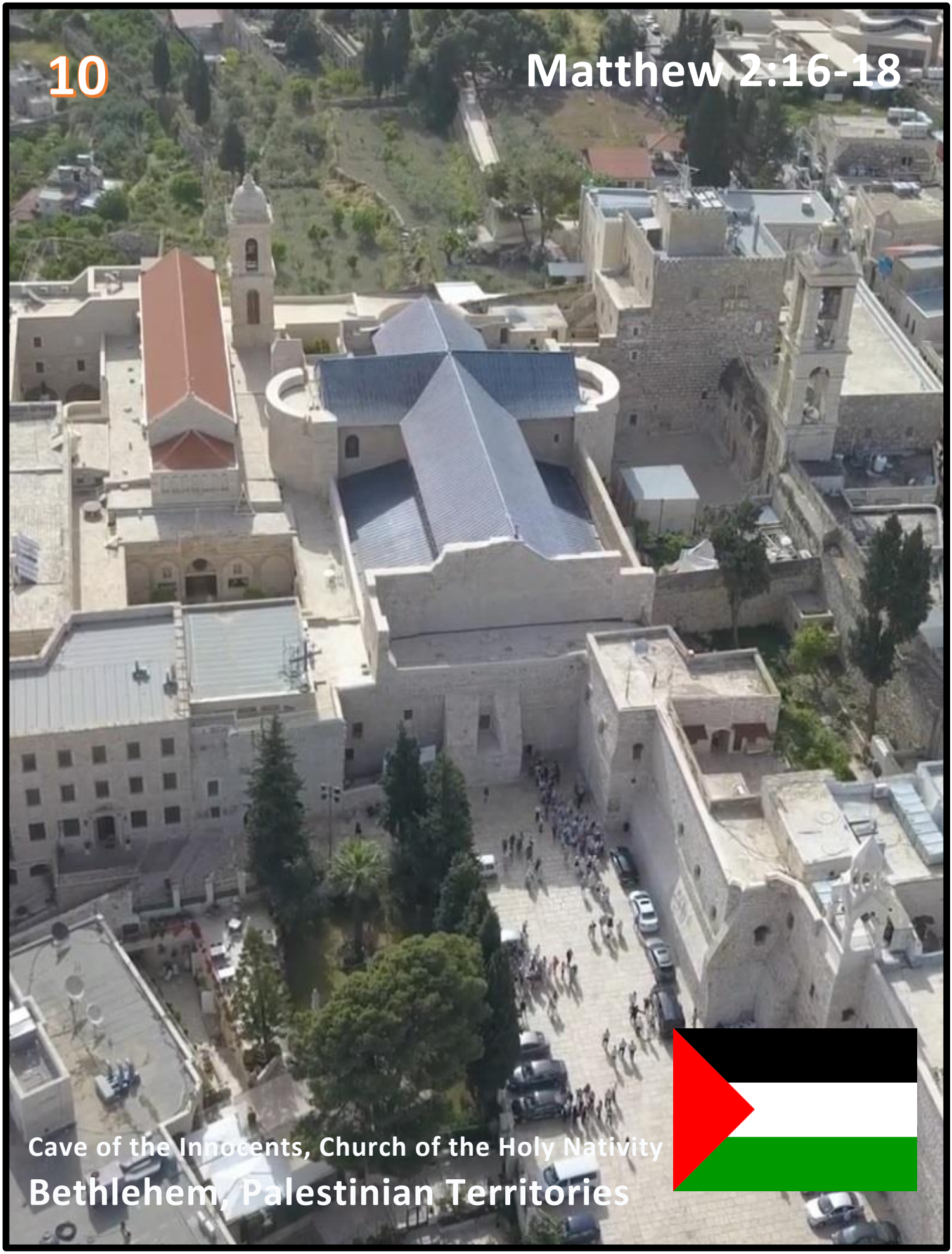
10. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS

Church of the Holy Nativity, Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°42'15.59"N, 35°12'27.21"E

"Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked because of the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and killed all the children who were in Bethlehem and in all of its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are no more." Matthew 2:16-18 (KJV 2016)

In 1962, excavations beneath the monastery of the Church of the Holy Nativity were conducted by Dr. Bellarmino Bagatti, an Italian Franciscan friar and archaeologist. Within the Grotto of the Innocents are many ancient bones, presumably from the 1st century, of people of various ages who had been exhumed in the days of Constantine and his mother Helena and reburied together in this cave. Here the scripture was fulfilled which was spoken by the Prophet Jeremiah in Jeremiah 31:15.

The Cave of the Innocents (beneath the Church of the Nativity)


10
Matthew 2:16-18
Cave of the Innocents, Church of the Holy Nativity
Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories

11. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE CAVE OF THE SHEPHERDS IN BETHLEHEM

Bayt Sahur, West Bank. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°41'36.46"N, 35°13'53.84"E

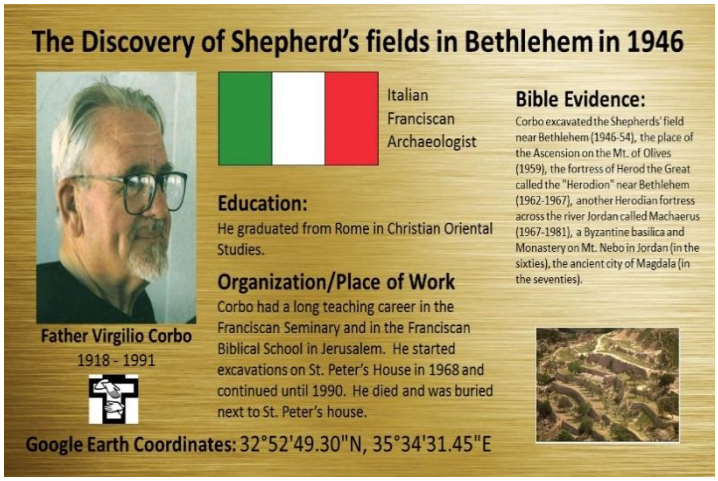
"Now there were in the same country shepherds staying out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, the angel of the Lord came over them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were very afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not fear, because behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which will be to all people. Because, there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you: You will find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Luke 2:8-12 (KJV 2016)

In 1951, excavations were carried out by Franciscan friar Virgilio Corbo, and traces of human occupation, including ancient oil presses of the 1st century, were found. Tradition from the 4th century names this as the place the angels appeared to the shepherds the night the Lord Jesus was born. The present sanctuary on these grounds was built in 1953.

Caves at YMCA Shepherd's Field

Shepherd's Field Chapel

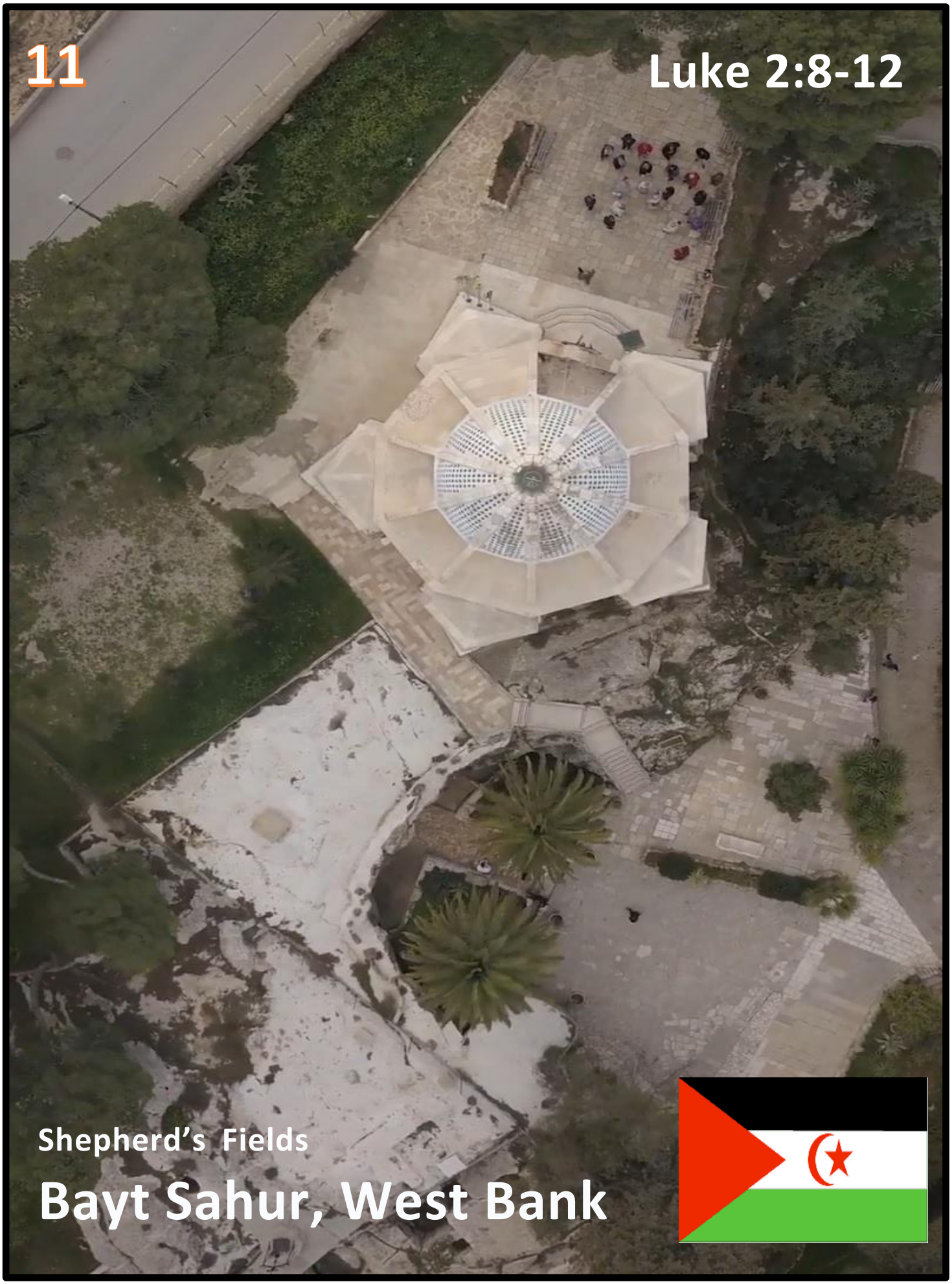
Church at Shepherd's Fields, Bethlehem



Excavations of Byzantine church and Monastery

11

Luke 2:8-12



Shepherd's Fields

Bayt Sahur, West Bank

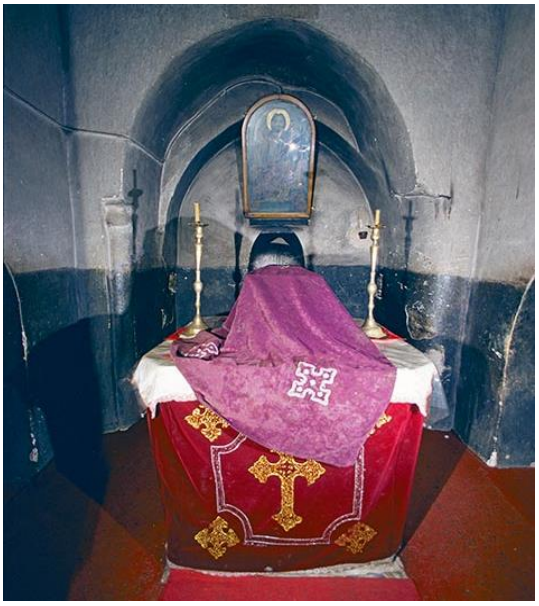
12. EVIDENCE FOR THE BED JESUS USED AS A TODDLER NOW AN ALTAR

Deir el-Muharraq Monastery, El-Qusiya, Egypt. Google Earth Coordinates: 27°26'40"N, 39°49'0"E

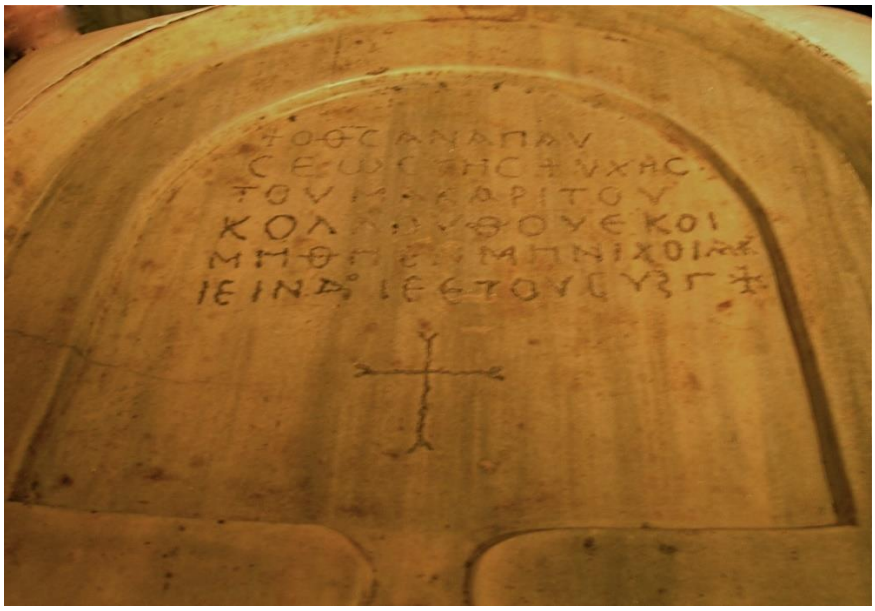
"Now when they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee into Egypt, and wait there until I bring you word; because Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed into Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I have called My Son." Matthew 2:13-15 (KJV 2016)

According to Egyptian Orthodox tradition, the Holy Family (Jesus, Mary and Joseph) came to Egypt and went from place to place for about 3 years. The al Muharraq monastery is in the middle of Egypt and marks the place where the Holy Family stayed for about 6 months. Within the monastery in Chapel of Mary there is an altar which is made of a semicircular piece of marble with an inscription in Greek dating to 746 AD which reads: ""O, Lord repose the blessed Kulthos". This altar is the oldest Christian altar in the world and the church consecrated by Jesus Christ Himself. Tradition states that in the first century the child Jesus slept on this marble slab as a bed for half a year. This altar is a fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah 19:19: "In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the middle of the land of Egypt". According to tradition it was also here in this place where the angel appeared to Joseph in a dream telling him to go back to the land of Israel after King Herod's death.

This is the Monastery where tradition states the Holy Family stayed



This altar is covered and sacred



The Greek 8th Century AD Inscription on the Altar

12

Matthew 2:13-15

Bed where Jesus slept
Al Muharraq Monastery

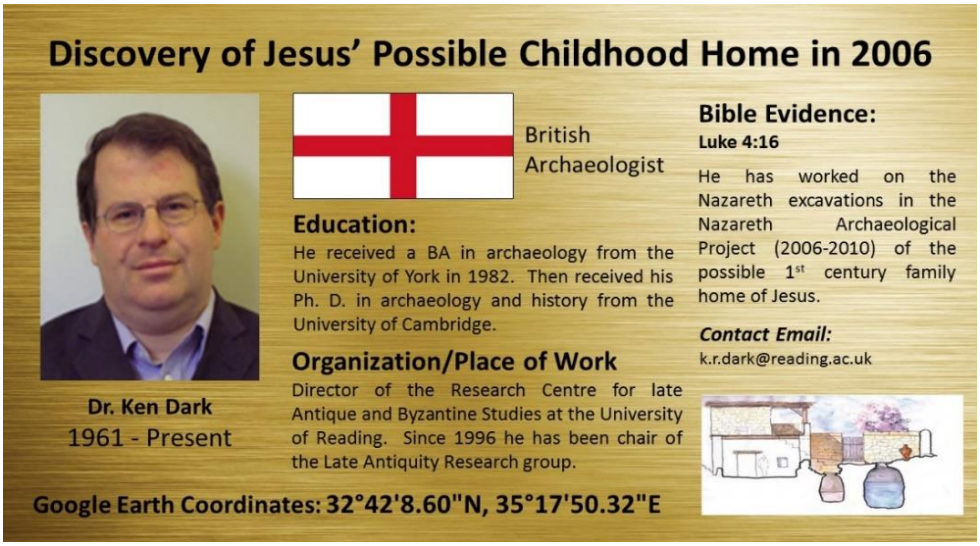
El-Qusiya, Egypt

13. EVIDENCE FOR THE HOME OF JESUS IN NAZARETH

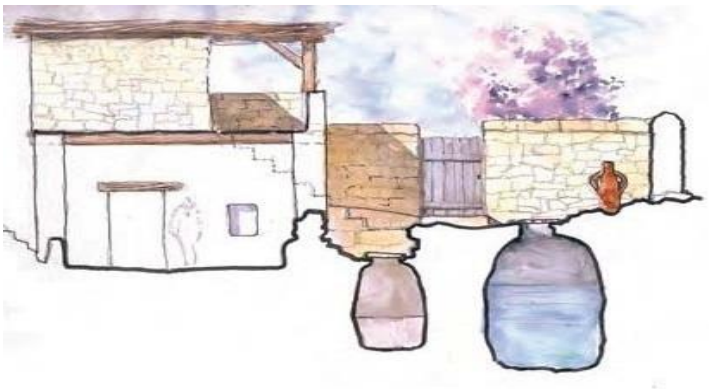
Sisters of Nazareth Convent, Nazareth, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°42'8.60"N, 35°17'50.32"E

"And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken through the prophets, "He will be called a Nazarene." Matthew 2:23 (KJV 2016)

The Holy Family returned from Egypt to Nazareth, the town where Jesus spent most of His earthly life. The word Nazareth comes from the Hebrew word for Branch, netzer. In Isaiah 11, we read that the Messiah would be from the line of Jesse and be known as a Branch, netzer. Then the prophet Zechariah foretold that the man whose name is the BRANCH will grow up out of his place and build the temple of the LORD. The Messiah was known as Jesus of Nazareth. In 2006, Dr. Ken Dark, a British archaeologist from the University of Reading, discovered a 1st century Jewish dwelling in the grounds of the Sisters of Nazareth convent. It was a two-storey house with two cisterns for water. It was occupied during the 1st century, then abandoned and used as a burial place with a rolling stone tomb. Then in Byzantine and Crusader times it was a place of Christian worship with an altar indicating that it was a place of pilgrimage. It was known as the Church of Nutrition, where Jesus Christ was nourished and raised in Nazareth.



First Century home in Nazareth – venerated in Byzantine and Crusader times – Possibly the Home of Jesus and His family



Reconstruction of the Home of Jesus

The Archaeological site is now covered and pilgrims can visit the site

13
Matthew 2:23
Possible Home of Jesus
Sisters of Nazareth Convent
Nazareth, Israel

14. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR MANY NEW TESTAMENT LOCATIONS

St. George Church, Madaba, Jordan. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°43'3.26"N, 35°47'39.25"E

"These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing." John 1:28 (KJV 2016)

In 1884, while building the Church of St. George in Madaba, Jordan, builders uncovered a floor mosaic map of the Holy Land. It originally measured 7 m by 21 m (22 feet by 69 feet) and is the oldest original surviving cartographic depiction of the Holy Land, especially Jerusalem. It is dated to the years 542 to 570 AD, and although it has some inaccuracies, it can be helpful by showing the approximate location of the place of baptism of Jesus.

The Madaba Map

St. George Orthodox Church, Madaba, Jordan

14
John 1:28
Church of St. George
Madaba, Jordan

15. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE BAPTISM SITE OF JESUS

Al-Maghtas, Jordan. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°50'14.16"N, 35°33'0.20"E

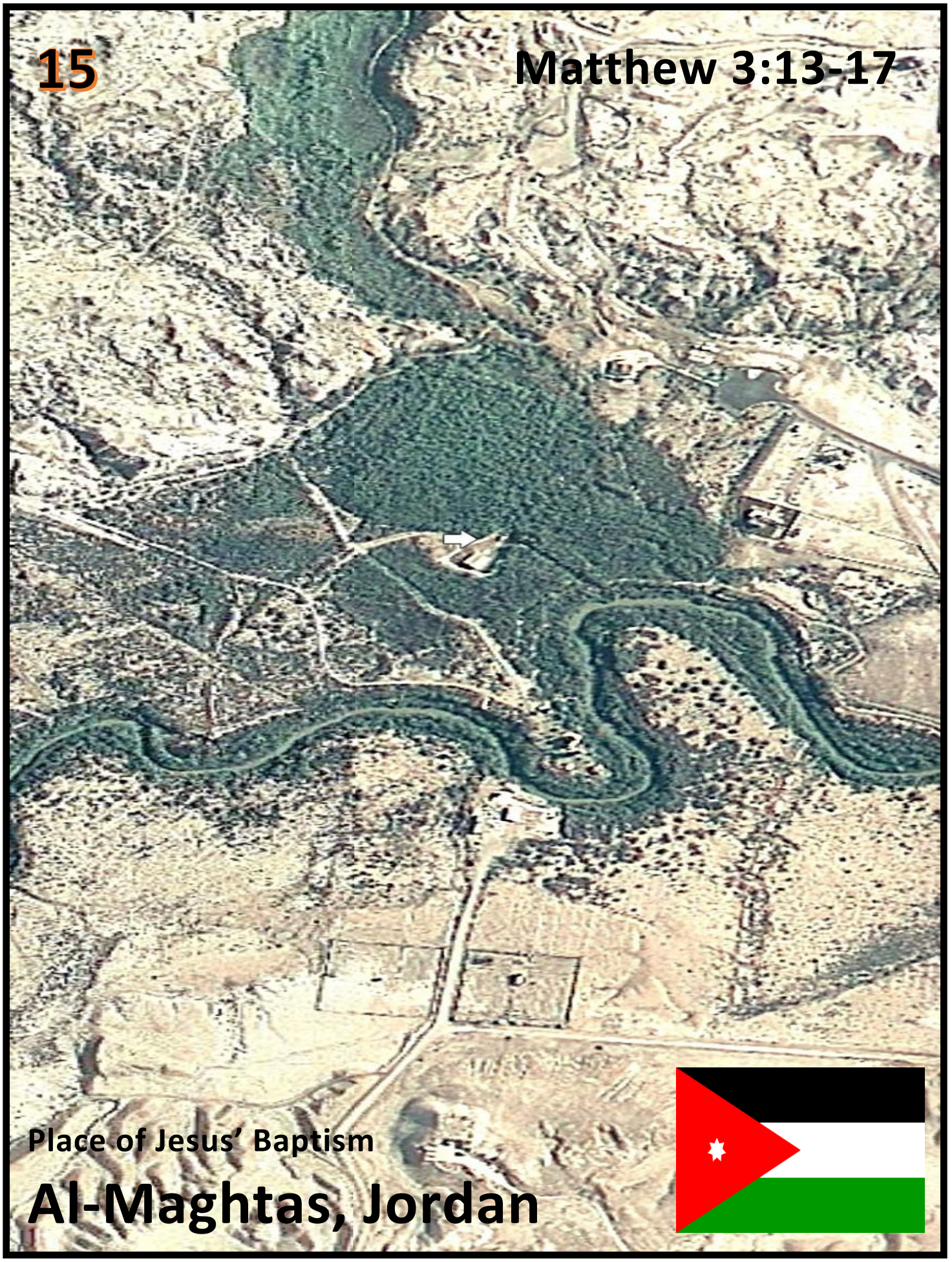
"Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. But John prevented Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, because it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. And when He was baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him. And behold a voice from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matthew 2:13-17 (KJV 2016)

John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy over 700 years beforehand and Malachi's prophecy over 400 years earlierIn 1998, following the clues from the Madaba map, Franciscan friar Dr. Michele Piccirillo found the actual location of the baptism of Jesus Christ. At the site are the remains of the Byzantine Church of St. John the Baptist with a cross-shaped baptismal font, the only one of its kind in the world. This is remembered as the place where John baptized Jesus, and for centuries during Byzantine times thousands of believers were baptized at this site. After being baptized, pilgrims carved crosses to commemorate their baptism. Crosses can be seen by the hundreds here. Ancient pilgrims such as Theodosius, the Piacenza pilgrim, and Abbott Daniel all wrote about the location. Their descriptions matched this place perfectly.

Ruins of the Baptistery of the Church of John the Baptist

15

Matthew 3:13-17



Place of Jesus' Baptism

Al-Maghtas, Jordan

16. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE HOME OF JOHN THE BAPTIST/ELIJAH'S HILL

Al-Maghtas, Jordan. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°50'10.38"N, 35°33'10.35"E

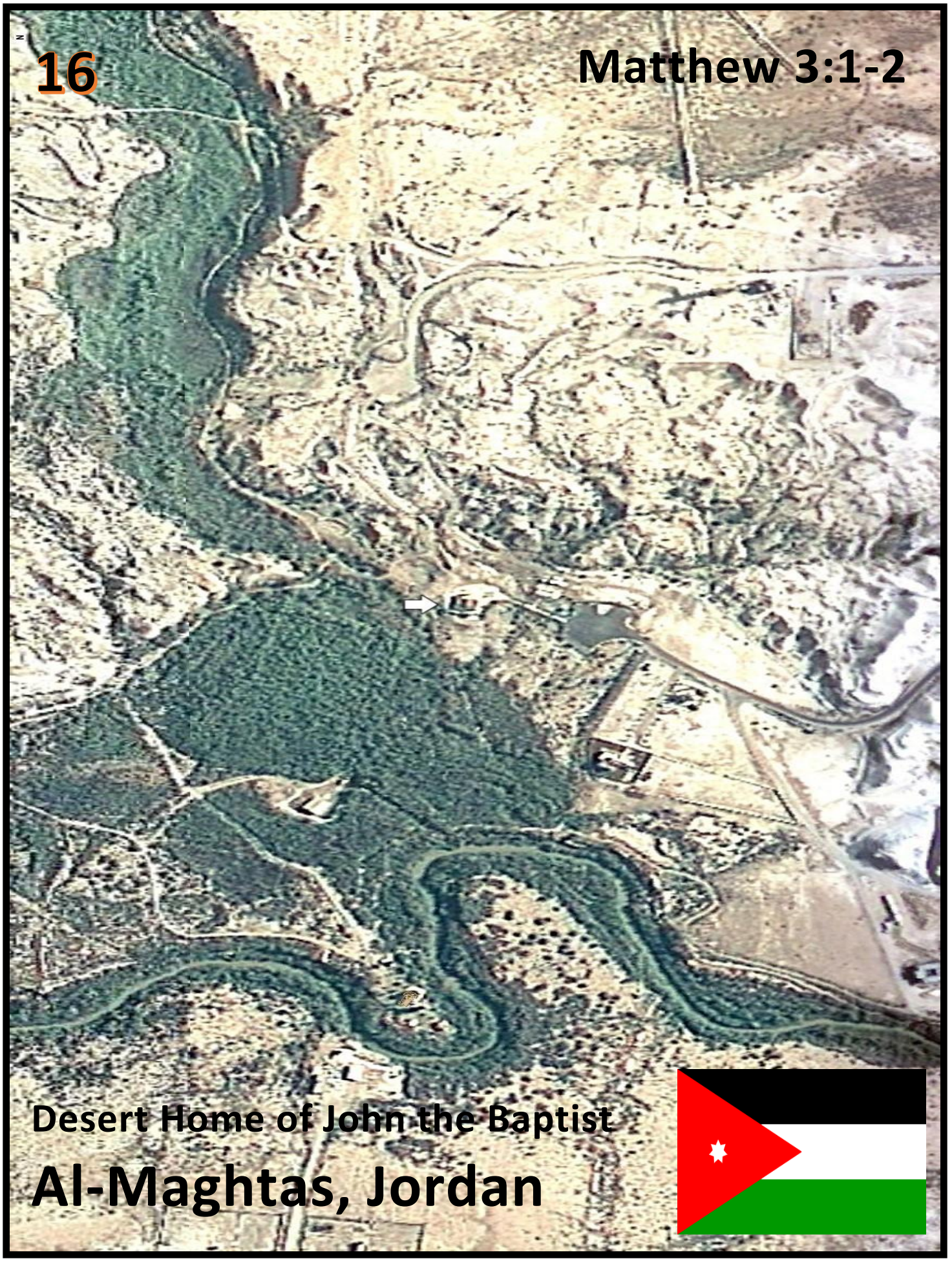
"In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" Because, this is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one shouting in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight.'" Matthew 3:1-3. And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was baptizing at first, and there He stayed. Then many came to Him and said, "John performed no miracle, but all the things that John spoke about this Man are true." And many believed on Him there. John 10:40-42 (KJV 2016)

Then, In 1998, after the discovery of the actual baptism site, Dr. Mohammed Waheeb, a Jordanian archaeologist, discovered the ruins of a Byzantine-era church and monastery constructed where it was believed that John the Baptist had lived and where Elijah went to heaven on a chariot of fire. Jesus came to this place to get away from angry people who wanted to harm him and to be with John the Baptist. At that place many believed in Jesus. Hundreds of monks lived in this area over many centuries, wanting to get close to God and live a life stripped of possessions just as John the Baptist did.

The Home of John the Baptist on Elijah's Hill

16

Matthew 3:1-2



Desert Home of John the Baptist

Al-Maghtas, Jordan

17. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE PLACE OF THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Mount Quarantania, West Bank. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°52'26.00"N, 35°25'53.00"E

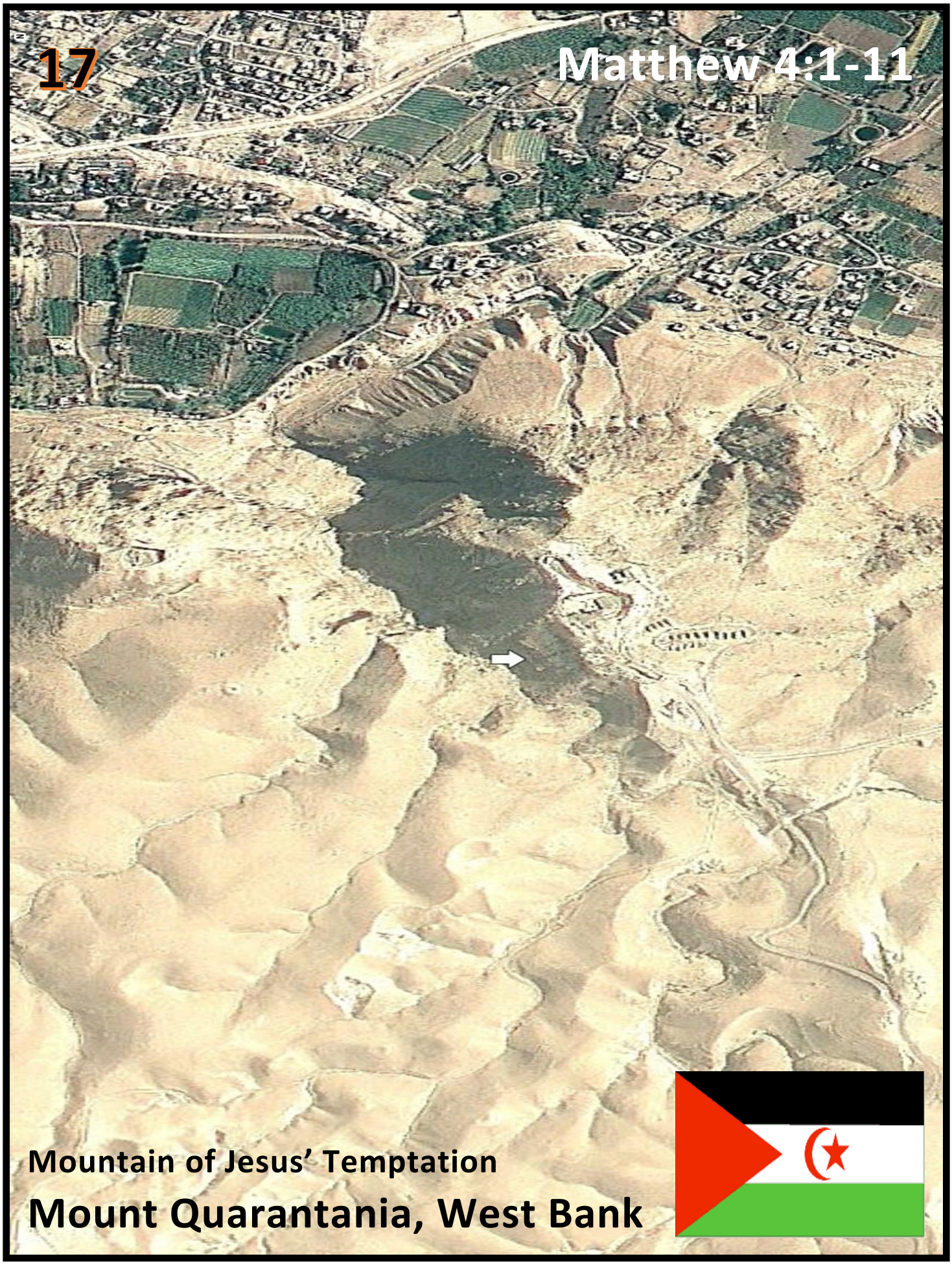
Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He replied and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:1-4 (KJV 2016)

This site is believed to be the place where Jesus fasted forty days and nights and was tempted by the devil. At this location is the Greek Orthodox Monastery of the Temptation. Empress Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Cave of the Temptation in 326 AD. The cave became a monastery in the 6th century and it is now staffed by three Orthodox monks who lead tours for visitors.

Monastery of the Temptation

17

Matthew 4:1-11



Mountain of Jesus' Temptation

Mount Quarantania, West Bank

18. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE PLACE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST'S EXECUTION

Madaba Region, Jordan. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°34'1.93"N, 35°37'28.17"E

And swiftly she came in immediately to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist on a platter at once." And the king was exceedingly sorry; yet because of his oath and because of those who sat with him, he did not want to refuse her. So immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. And when his disciples heard of it, they came and took away his corpse and laid it in a tomb. Mark 6:25-29 (KJV 2016)

1807 Dr. Ulrich Jasper Seetzen, a German doctor and explorer, discovered the fortress of Machaerus. This is where John the Baptist was imprisoned and beheaded, and although the gospel does not give a location in Matthew 14:1-12, the writings of Flavius Josephus tell us that these events took place here. This is where John the Baptist spent his final days.

The Ruins of Machaerus

18

Matthew 14:1-12

Machaerus Fortress

Madaba Region, Jordan

19. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE WEDDING OF CANA IN GALILEE

Kafr Khanna, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°44'49.06"N, 35°20'19.45"E

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of grape juice, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing two or three measures each. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. And said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests fully drink that, then the inferior. But you have kept the good wine until now!" This beginning of miracles Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed on Him. John 2:1-11 (KJV 2016)

The Cana Catholic Wedding Church in Kafr Kanna, built in 1883, sits on top of ruins of what many believe to be the town of Cana of Galilee. In 1997, excavations by Father Eugenio Alliata, an Italian Franciscan archaeologist, uncovered ruins of houses from the 1st-4th centuries AD and structures from Byzantine times. An inscription in Aramaic was found which reads: "In memory of the pious Joseph, son of *Tanhum*, son of Bota and of his children who made this table, may it be for them a blessing, Amen." A winepress was found at the site as well as large stone jars that could have been preserved as the jars Jesus used to turn water into wine.

Cana Catholic Wedding Church

Excavations beneath Church

19

John 2:1-11

Cana Catholic Wedding Church

Kafr Kanna, Galilee, Israel

20. THIS IS AN ALTERNATE POSSIBLE LOCATION OF THE WEDDING OF CANA IN GALILEE

Netofa Valley, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°49'19.55"N, 35°18'9.92"E

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of grape juice, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing two or three measures each. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. And said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests fully drink that, then the inferior. But you have kept the good wine until now!" This beginning of miracles Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed on Him. John 2:1-11 (KJV 2016)

To the north-northwest of the Cana Catholic wedding church which has evidence of a small village from the Hellenistic period (which began in 323 BC) onwards. This village contained a mikveh, used for Jewish ritual bathing, and a structure that resembles a Roman-era synagogue. A cave complex at the southern end shows that it was used as a Christian place of worship with an altar decorated by a Maltese-style cross and two stone jars with room for another four jars, matching the description in John 2:1-11.

Archaeologist in underground complex at ledge which held 6 stone water jars and altar with Maltese style cross

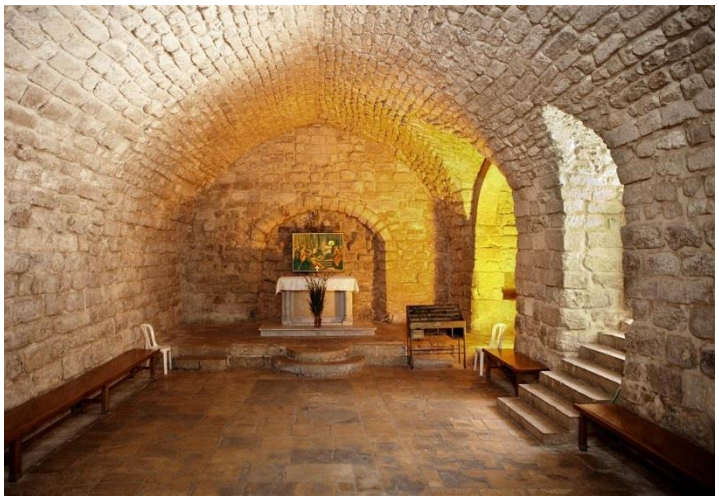
20
John 2:1-11
Possible Ancient Cana
Netofa Valley, Galilee, Israel

21. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE SYNAGOGUE IN NAZARETH WHERE JESUS PREACHED

Nazareth, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°41'6.00"N, 35°17'54.55"E

So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" He said to them, "You will surely say this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in Your country.'" Then He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country. But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way. Luke 4:16-30 (KJV 2016)

The Synagogue Church is a 12th Century church built by the Crusaders. According to tradition, it is built upon the exact site of the 1st century synagogue where Jesus learned, grew up, preached and was rejected by his own fellow Nazarenes. It was in the care of the Franciscans for centuries until the 18th century when the ruler Daher al-Omar gave it to the Greek Catholics. It is now in the care of the Melchite Catholic Church, which built a modern church next door in 1887.



Crusader Structure built upon the Synagogue of Jesus

Famous Painting of Jesus in the Synagogue

Entrance of Synagogue Church

Column of unknown age at entrance

21
Luke 4:16-27
Synagogue Church
Nazareth, Israel

22. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF WHERE JESUS WAS REJECTED IN NAZARETH

Nazareth, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°41'6.00"N, 35°17'54.55"E

So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. But passing through the midst of them He went His way, Luke 4:28-30 (KJV 2016)

The prophet Isaiah foretold the coming Messiah's rejection. He wrote: He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. About 2 km (1.2 miles) to the south of the center of the city of Nazareth is a cliff which rises to an elevation of 395 m (1,296 feet). Here is the place where the unbelieving Nazarenes brought Jesus from the synagogue in order to throw Him down and kill Him. Miraculously, Jesus walked right through the crowd and went on His way to Capernaum. He left Nazareth from the tribe of Zebulun and came to Capernaum in the tribe of Naphtali to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah.

View from the Summit of Mount Precipice

Side view of Mount Precipice

22
Luke 4:28-30
Mount Precipice
Nazareth, Israel

23. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF WHERE JESUS CALLED HIS DISCIPLES

Capernaum, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°53'12.30"N, 35°35'21.29"E

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; because they were fishermen. And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." And they immediately left their nets, and followed Him. And going on from there, He saw two more brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and He called them. And immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. Matthew 4:18-22 (KJV 2016)

The prophet Isaiah foretold that the Great Light would come to Galilee, first the Land of Zebulun, where Nazareth is located, then the Land of Naphtali, where Capernaum is located. Somewhere along the northern shoreline of the Sea of Galilee near the city of Capernaum is where Jesus fulfilled prophecy and called His disciples in Matthew 4:18-22. Peter, Andrew, James and John left their nets and livelihood and followed Jesus.

The North Shoreline of the Sea of Galilee

23

Matthew 4:18-22

Shore where Jesus called His disciples

Capernaum, Galilee, Israel

24. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF A FIRST CENTURY FISHING BOAT

Ginosar, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°50'39.49"N, 35°31'30.61"E

And again He began to teach by the sea side. And a large crowd was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea. Then the entire crowd was by the sea on the land. Mark 4:1 (KJV 2016)

In 1986, two Israeli fishermen, Moshe and Yuval Lufan, discovered something sticking out of the beach. It was an ancient, well-crafted boat that had been buried in the sand for 2,000 years. It would have been the type of boat that Jesus and his disciples used on the Sea of Galilee. It was carefully restored and is now on display at the Yigal Alon Museum in Ginosar, Israel.

The Sea of Galilee Boat

Moshe and Yuval Lufan, Israeli Fishermen

24

Mark 4:1

Yigal Alon Museum

Ginosar, Galilee, Israel

25. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF WHERE JESUS MULTIPLIED THE LOAVES AND FISHES

Tabgha, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°52'23.75"N, 35°32'54.84"E

But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to leave. You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "We have only five loaves, and two fish with us." He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He commanded the crowds to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke, and gave the loaves to His disciples; and the disciples gave to the crowds. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children." Matthew 14:16-21 (KJV 2016)

The prophet Micah foretold that the One to be Ruler in Israel would stand and feed His flock and that this One would be great to the ends of the earth. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy when He literally fed thousands with one boy's lunch. In 381 AD the Spanish pilgrim Lady Egeria described the place where Jesus placed the loaves and fishes on a rock, which is now an altar. In that place He multiplied the loaves and fish to feed 5,000 men plus women and children. A Benedictine Catholic church called the Church of the Multiplication was built around the site in 1982. The building next to this beautiful church was burned down in 2015 by radical Israeli youths who were arrested and indicted on charges of arson. However, the main part of the church, and especially the altar, was unharmed by the fire. The church has since been rebuilt helped by a $400,000 contribution from the State of Israel.

The stone upon which it is believed Jesus placed the loaves and fishes

A Benedictine priest in The Church of the Multiplication after arson

25
Matthew 14:13-21
Church of the Multiplication
Tabgha, Galilee, Israel

26. THIS IS THE SYNAGOGUE LOCATION WHERE JESUS TAUGHT IN CAPERNAUM

Capernaum, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°52'51.40"N, 35°34'31.46"E

Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath day He entered into the synagogue and taught. And they were astonished at His doctrine, because, He taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes. Mark 1:21-22 (KJV 2016)

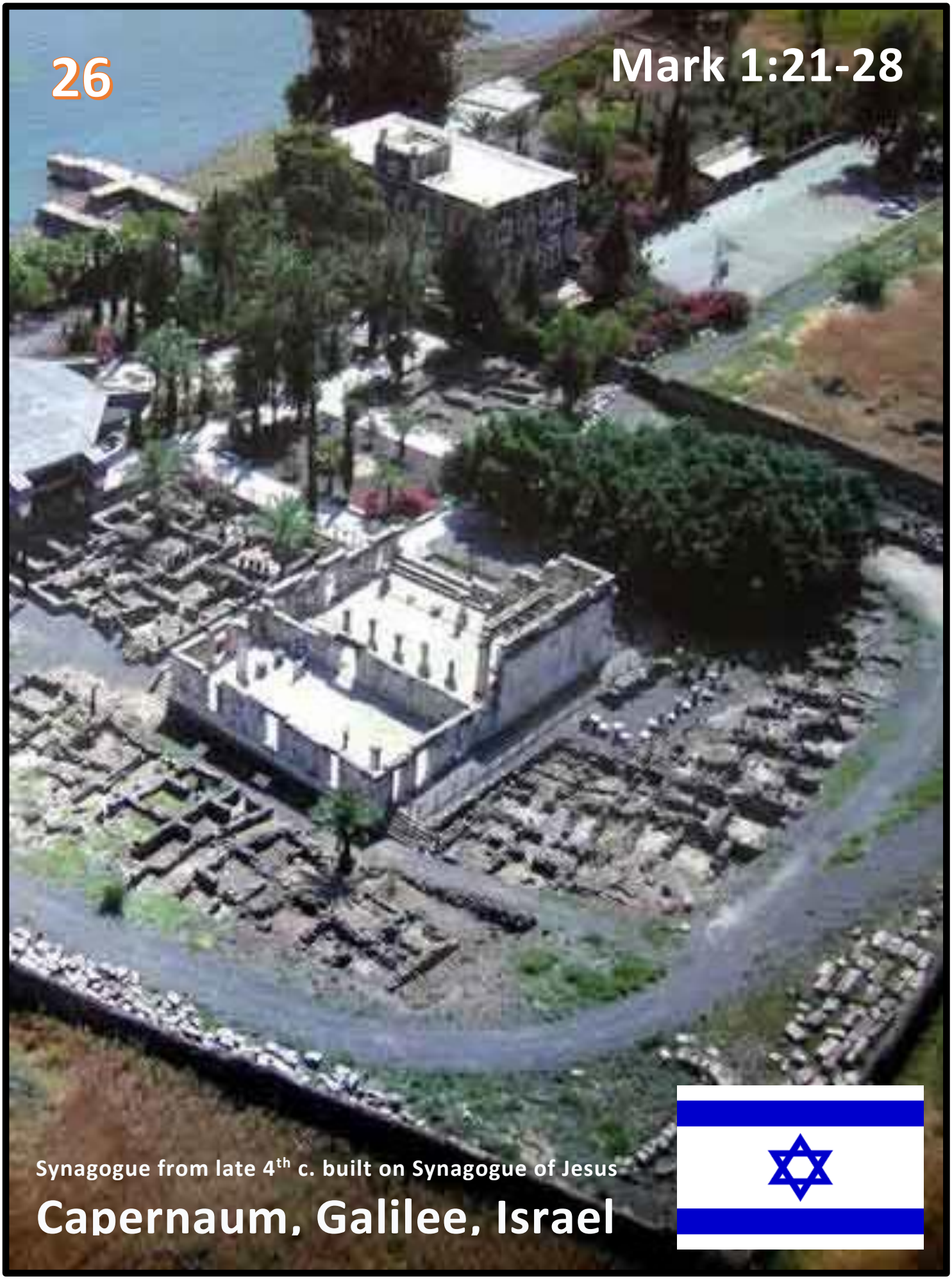
In 1866, British cartographer Captain Charles W. Wilson discovered this ancient late 4th century synagogue in Capernaum. The upper level of white limestone was then partially restored as it stands today. However, it stands on an older 1st century synagogue made of black basalt. This lower synagogue was the one where Jesus cast out a demon and gave his sermon on Him being the Bread of Life (John 6:25-59).

Capernaum's 4th Century Synagogue

The Lower Basalt Synagogue in Jesus' Time

26

Mark 1:21-28



Synagogue from late 4th c. built on Synagogue of Jesus

Capernaum, Galilee, Israel

27. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF ST. PETER'S HOME IN CAPERNAUM

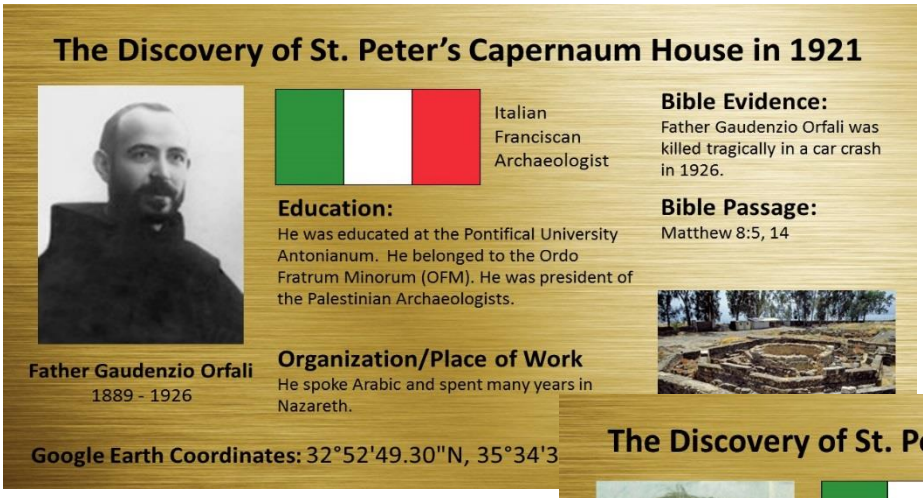
Capernaum, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°52'49.30"N, 35°34'31.45"E

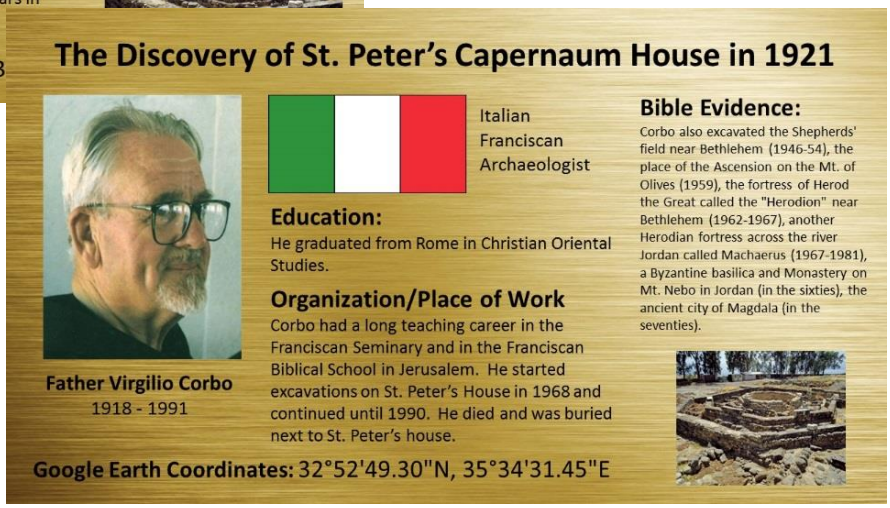
Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. But Simon's wife's mother lay sick with a fever, and they quickly told Him about her. So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she ministered to them. Mark 1:29-31 (KJV 2016)

In 1921, Italian archaeologist and Franciscan friar Gaudenzio Orfali discovered the octagonal remains of a Byzantine basilica in Capernaum. Orfali was tragically killed in a car accident in 1926 and further excavations were put on hold. Later, in 1968, Italian archaeologist and Franciscan friar Virgilio Corbo, along with other friars, excavated further under the centre of the octagonal church. They discovered that it was built around a 1st century home which had been venerated from the time of Christ through to the Arab period. It is almost certain that this is the home of Peter, his wife and mother-in-law and the home where Jesus also lived. Over top of the 1st century home a large memorial sanctuary was erected in 1990, and friar Corbo received his final wish to be buried next to the long-venerated room of St. Peter in 1991.

The Octagonal Byzantine Basilica with central room

The Modern chapel over the venerated room





27

Matthew 8:5, 14

Home of Peter

Capernaum, Galilee, Israel

28. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF WHERE JESUS TAUGHT THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Near Capernaum, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°52'55.63"N, 35°33'18.99"E

And seeing the crowds, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, because theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:1-3 (KJV 2016)

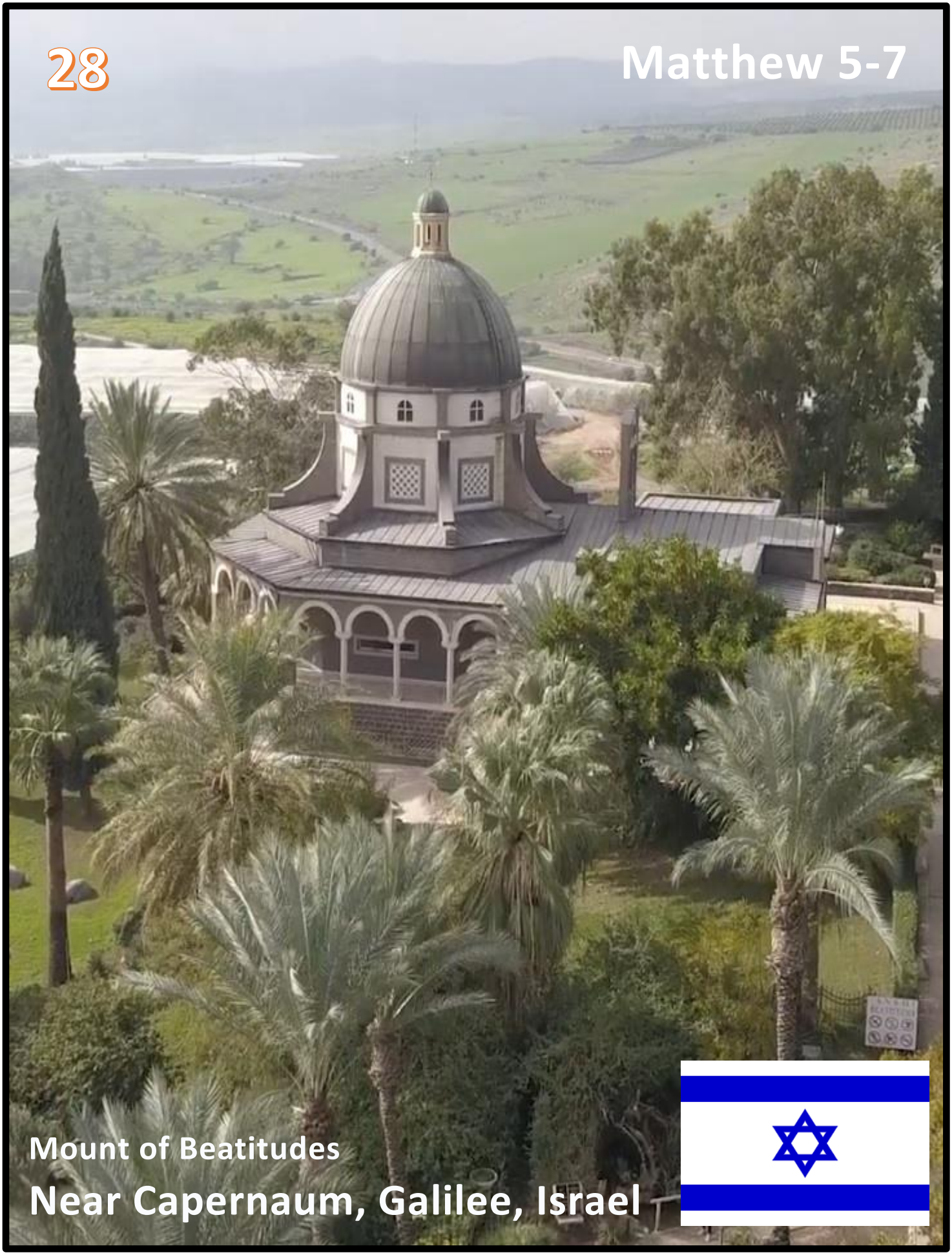
In the year 381, the Spanish pilgrim Lady Egeria spoke of a cave in the hillside at the Seven Springs, near Tabgha, "upon which the Lord ascended when he taught the Beatitudes". The terrace above this still-existing cave, called Mughara Ayub, is considered the traditional place where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. A Byzantine church was erected nearby in the 4th century, but is now in ruins. Uphill from this structure is the Church of the Beatitudes built in 1938 by the Italian Franciscans.

Mount of the Beatitudes where Jesus taught the Sermon on the Mount

Church of the Beatitudes

28

Matthew 5-7



Mount of Beatitudes

Near Capernaum, Galilee, Israel

29. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF THE TOWN OF NAIN WHERE JESUS RAISED A MAN TO LIFE

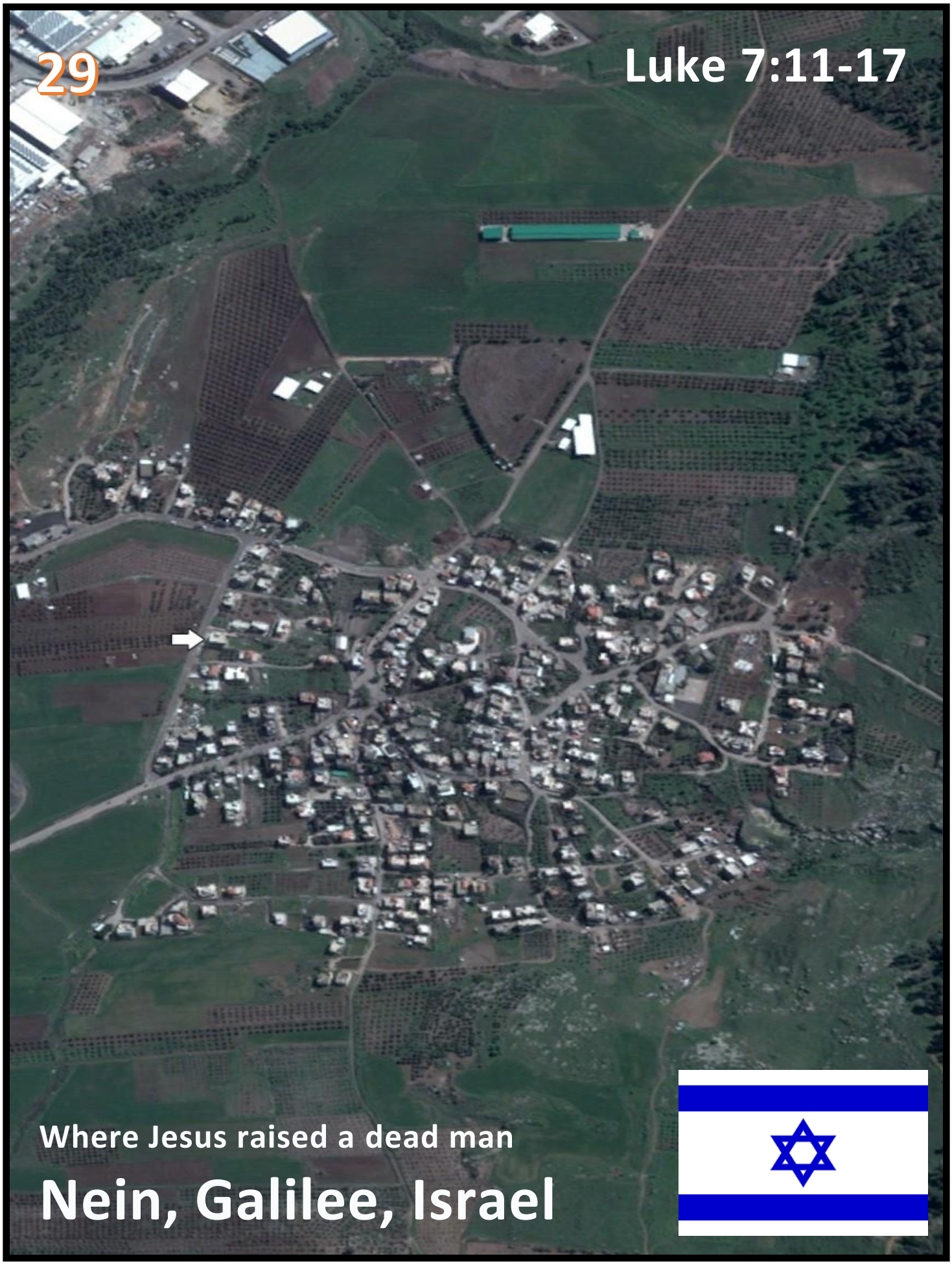
Nein, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32° 37'60.00"N, 35° 21'0.00"E

Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and many people. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And many people from the city were with her. And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then He came and touched the coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then reverence came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people." And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region. Luke 7:11-17 (KJV 2016)

In 1838, the famous Edward Robinson, known as the "Father of Biblical geography", identified the city of Nain on his travels to Palestine. This is the city where Jesus raised the widow's son from death. To commemorate the miracle of Luke 7:11-17, the Franciscan order built a church here in 1880.

Catholic Church in Nein, Israel

The Modern City of Nein


29
Luke 7:11-17
Where Jesus raised a dead man
Nein, Galilee, Israel

30. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF BETHSAIDA WHERE JESUS HEALED THE BLIND MAN

Northeast of Sea of Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°54'32.32"N, 35°37'51.51"E

Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spat on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking." Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly. Then He sent him away to his house, saying, "Neither go into the town, nor tell it to anyone in the town." Mark 8:22-26 (KJV 2016)

In 1987, Dr. Rami Arav, an Israeli archaeologist, began excavations of the ancient Bethsaida. He uncovered ruins from the time of King David, when it was the capital of the kingdom of Geshur. This city was destroyed, and by the time of Jesus it was a Jewish fishing village. Peter, Andrew and Philip all came from Bethsaida. In this place, Jesus laid hands on a blind man who saw men like trees walking and who was then completely healed.

The Ruins of Bethsaida built upon the ruins of the ancient capital city of Geshur

Ruins of the House of the Fisherman, Bethsaida

30
Mark 8:22-26
Where Jesus healed a Blind Man
Bethsaida, Galilee, Israel

31. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF WHERE JESUS CAST DEMONS OUT OF THE POSSESSED MEN

Kursi, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°49'22.00"N, 35°39'9.94"E

And when He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass through that way. And suddenly they shouted out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time? Now a long distance away from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And, suddenly the entire herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the water. Matthew 8:30-32 (KJV 2016)

In 1970, road works accidentally revealed the walls of a Byzantine monastery. Further excavation by Dr. Vassilios Tzaferis, a Greek-born Israeli archaeologist, revealed the largest monastery in Israel, which was built to commemorate the place where Jesus cast demons out of the demon-possessed men. There are tombs built into the hill as described in the gospels, and the lake floor plunges off abruptly, leading to the death of 2,000 pigs as recorded in Matthew's gospel.

Ruins of 5th Century Monastery at Kursi, the largest Byzantine monastery in Israel

31
Matthew 8:26-34
Where Jesus cast demons into pigs
Kursi, Galilee, Israel

32. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF WHERE JESUS WAS TRANSFIGURED

Mount Tabor Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°41'13.61"N, 35°23'25.38"E

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them, so His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them there, talking with Him. Then Peter responded and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you want to, let us make three tabernacles here; one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he still spoke, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one, except Jesus only. Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen again from the dead." Matthew 17:1-9 (KJV 2016)

The Prophet Micah foretold that the Lord would tread upon the high places of the earth. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy when He was transfigured on the holy mountain. During Byzantine times a church and monastery were built on Mount Tabor. This location was also identified by Origen in the 3rd century. In total, 4,300 steps were built up to the top in the 4th century, and it became an important pilgrimage site. By the 8th century there were four churches and a monastery on the summit. According to tradition, this is the place where Jesus revealed Himself to Peter, James and John as much more than a man, but as God and man, according to Matthew 17:1-9. Now the Church of the Transfiguration stands on the summit of Mount Tabor.

Church of the Transfiguration, Mount Tabor

View from Mount Tabor

32
Matthew 17:1-9
Mount of the Transfiguration
Mount Tabor, Galilee, Israel

33. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF JACOB'S WELL IN SYCHAR. SAMARIA

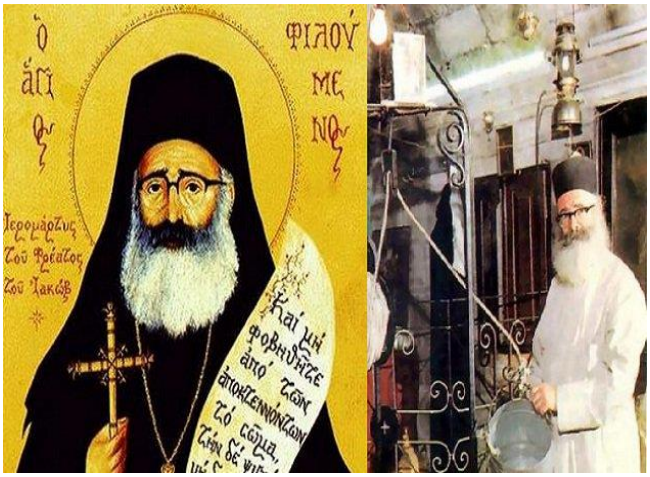
St. Photini Orthodox Church, Nablus, West Bank. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°12'42.74"N, 35°16'39.71"E

So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus on the well. Now it was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came there to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." Because His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" Because Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." John 4:5-10 (KJV 2016)

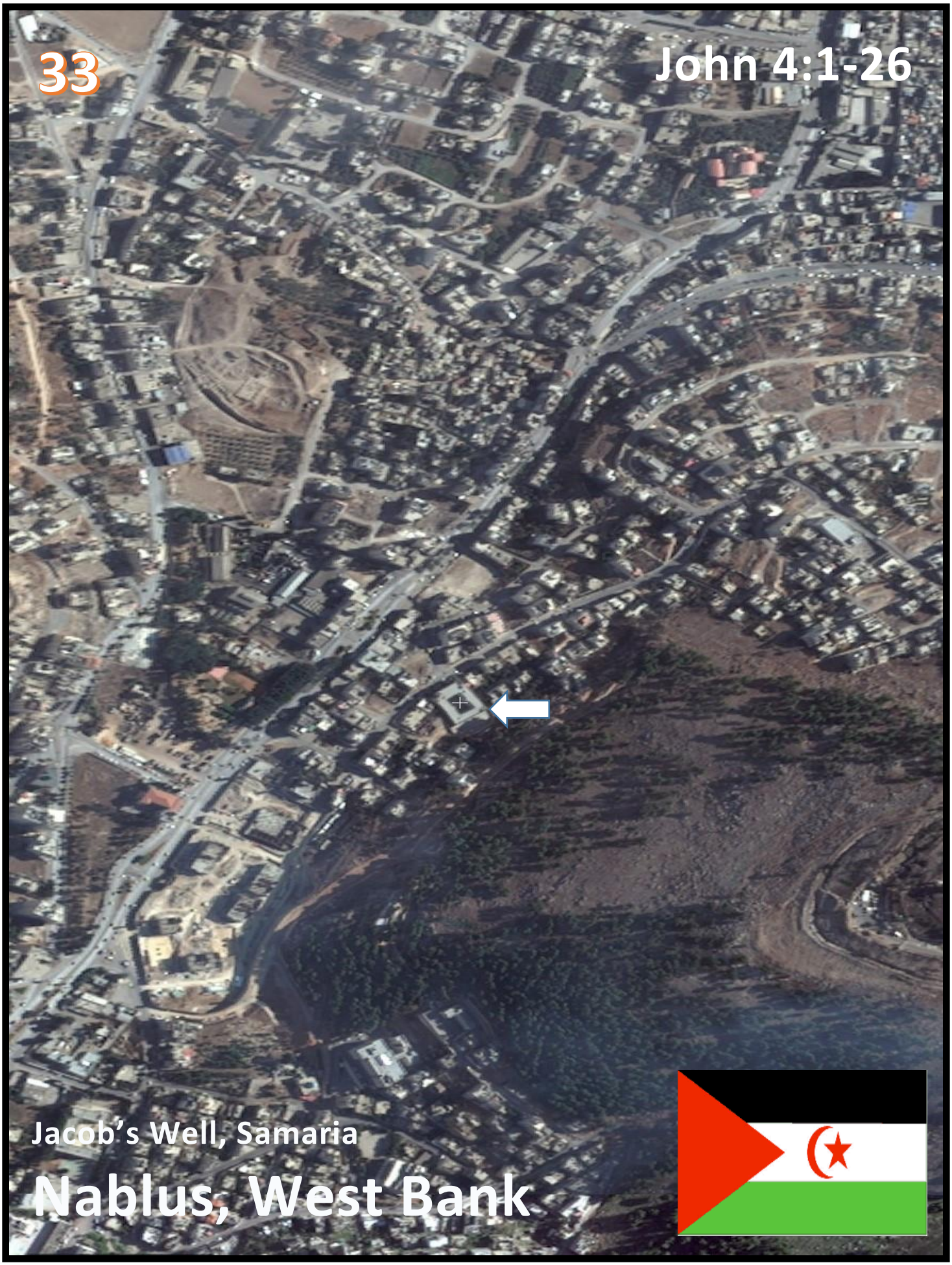
This is the place where Jesus met with the woman from Samaria and asked her for a drink of water in John 4:1-26. During Byzantine times the site was identified as Jacob's well and was used for baptisms. American Biblical scholar Edward Robinson visited the site in the mid-1800s and said that Jacob's well was a "shapeless mass of ruins". Then the Greek Orthodox church obtained the site in 1860 and built the beautiful Church of St. Photini, (the Samaritan woman's name by tradition), around the well, which has a depth of 135 feet (41 m). Sadly, in 1979 Israeli extremists brutally killed the custodian of the well, Archimandrite Philoumenos, as they wanted the area to be a Jewish holy site only. In 2009, thirty years after the custodian's martyrdom, he was declared St. Philoumenos.

Jacob's Well is located in Basement of St. Photini Orthodox Church, Nablus, West Bank

The beautiful Church of St. Photini



Saint Philoumenos, keeper of Jacob's Well

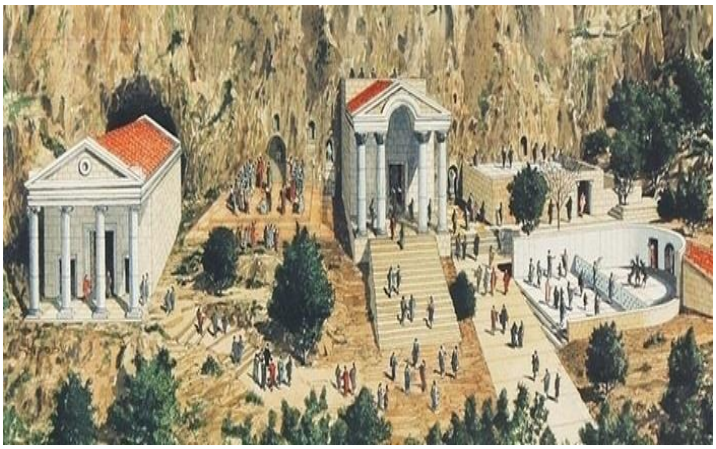

33
John 4:1-26
Jacob's Well, Samaria
Nablus, West Bank

34. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR CAESAREA PHILIPPI

Banias, Golan Heights, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 33°14'46.32"N, 35°41'38.79"E

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I the Son of Man, am?" So they said, "Some say that You are John the Baptist, some, Elijah, and others Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:13-16 (KJV 2016)

This place is also called Banias, named after the Greek god Pan, the half-goat, half-man god whose shriek could cause fright (thus the word "Panic"). It was a large center of pagan worship in the time of Jesus. The Grotto of Pan is where worshippers would cast sacrifices into the cave. Banias is situated at the base of Mount Hermon. Jesus and his disciples were on a road near Caesarea Philippi when Jesus asked the question "Who do men say that I am?" This is where Peter declared "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God".



Caesarea Philippi in the time of Jesus Christ

Ruins of the Grottos of Caesarea Philippi

The raised Roman Road in Caesarea Philippi

34

Matthew 16:13-19

Ancient Caesarea Philippi

Banias, Golan Heights, Israel

35. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF THE SYCAMORE TREE WHERE ZACCHAEUS MET JESUS

Jericho, West Bank. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°51'33.01"N, 35°27'25.64"E

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, because he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, because He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, because today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." Luke 19:1-7 (KJV 2016)

At this spot, on the grounds of the Convent of the Good Shepherd in Jericho, Zacchaeus, a man of short stature, climbed the sycamore fig tree in order to see Jesus as he was passing by. Some believe this tree to be the actual tree that Zacchaeus climbed. Nearby is a little room surrounded by glass with a very old sycamore fig trunk which the Orthodox Church believes is the actual tree of Zacchaeus. Either way, evidence shows that the sycamore fig tree mentioned in Luke 19:1-10 was somewhere in this vicinity.

The Zaccheus Tree in Jericho

Zacchaeus Ancient Tree Stump (Orthodox) nearby in Jericho

35
Luke 19:1-10
Sycamore Trees of Zacchaeus
Jericho, West Bank

36. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF THE TOMB OF LAZARUS WHOM JESUS RAISED FROM THE DEAD

Al-Eizariya, West Bank. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'11.94"N, 35°15'51.63"E

Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time he smells, because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." Now when He had spoken these things, He shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go." Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed on Him. John 11:38-45 (KJV 2016)

In the year 330 A.D., Eusebius of Caesarea mentions visiting the tomb of Lazarus as described in John 11:1-45. By the year 390 there was a church dedicated to Lazarus at this site called the Lazarium. In the 16th century the al-Uzair Mosque was built on this site. In modern times, 24 steps descend from the street level to a place of prayer, then a few more steps descend to the antechamber, dating to the first century, where Jesus would have stood. From here Jesus called to Lazarus in his tomb, which was 21 square feet (2 m^2). Here Lazarus was raised to life after four days of death.

The Tomb of Lazarus in Bethany - al-Eizariya

Steps leading to 1st Century Tomb

36
John 11:1-44
The tomb of Lazarus
Al-Eizariya, West Bank

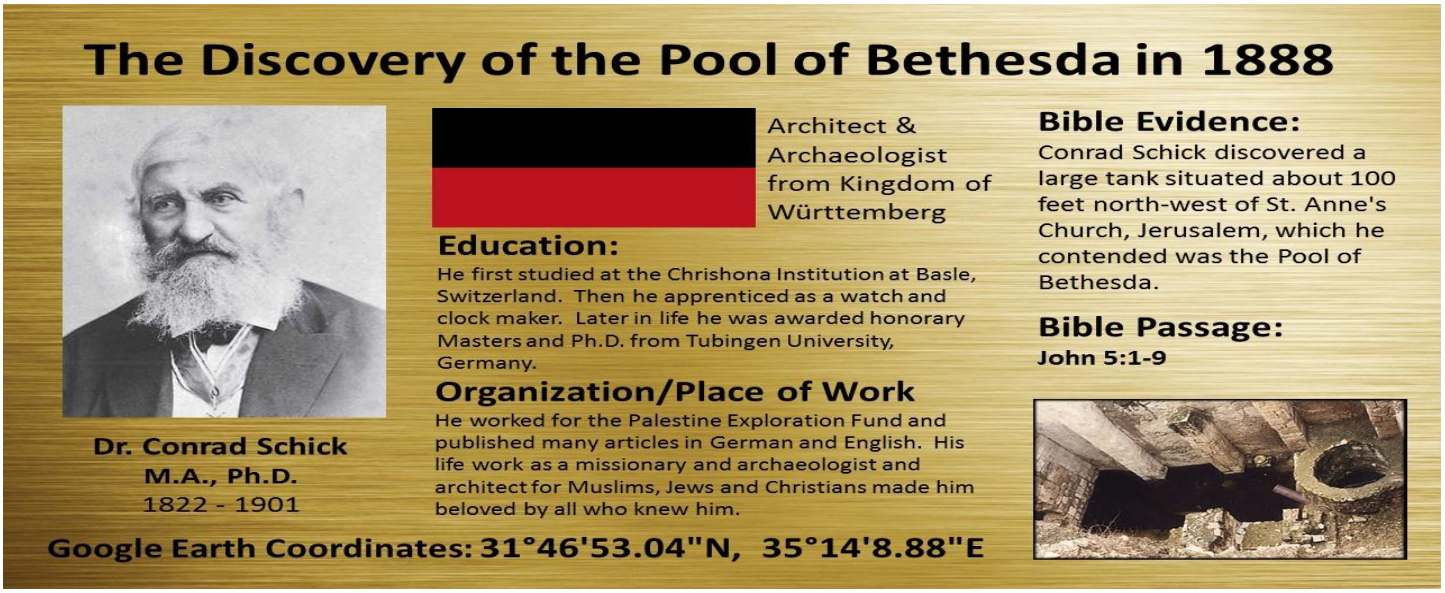
37. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF THE POOL OF BETHESDA WHERE JESUS HEALED THE LAME MAN

Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'53.04"N, 35°14'8.88"E

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in the Hebrew language, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a large crowd of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. Because, an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And on the same day was the Sabbath. John 5:1-9 (KJV 2016)

The Prophet Isaiah foretold that God would come and save His people – then the lame shall leap like a deer. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy when He healed the lame man at Bethesda and told him to take up his bed and walk. In 1888, Conrad Schick, a German architect and archaeologist, discovered the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem. It is only 410 feet (125 m) away from the Sheep Gate (later renamed the Lion's Gate), following the Biblical description. Later in 1964, after further excavation, it was discovered that Byzantine and Crusader-era churches were built on the site to commemorate the miracle of the healing of the lame man in John 5:1-9.

The Pool of Bethesda



37
N
John 5:1-9
The Pool of Bethesda
Jerusalem, Israel

38. THIS IS THE POOL OF SILOAM WHERE JESUS HEALED THE BLIND MAN

City of David, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'13.18"N, 35°14'7.19"E

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from his birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and returned seeing. John 9:1-7 (KJV 2016)

The Prophet Isaiah foretold that God would come and save His people – then the eyes of the blind would be opened. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy when He opened the eyes of the blind man. In 2004, workers who were repairing a large water pipe drainage system uncovered ancient steps. Then Dr. Ronny Reich and Eli Shukron, both Israeli archaeologists, excavated further and discovered that this is the Biblical site of the Pool of Siloam, fed by the Gihon spring, in the city of David in southern Jerusalem. Further excavation is difficult as the rest of the pool lies underneath property owned by the Greek Orthodox Church. This is the place where Jesus said to the blind man to go and wash after he put mud on the man's eyes in John 9:1-7.

The Pool of Siloam

38
N
John 9:1-5
Pool of Siloam
Jerusalem, Israel

39. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF THE FALLEN TOWER OF SILOAM

City of David, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'22.72"N, 35°14'11.00"E

Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." Luke 13:4-5 (KJV 2016)

The Tower of Siloam protected the Gihon Spring, which provided the city of David with the clean spring water that ran downhill into the pool of Siloam. Excavating in this area, Dr. Ronny Reich and Eli Shukron uncovered massive fortification boulders dating back to 1800 B.C., the Canaanite period, when the Jebusites lived in the city—well before David's conquest. It is clear that the springs of Gihon have been protected for millennia. In Luke 13:1-9 we read how 18 people were killed when the Tower of Siloam fell on them. Ruins of the base of this tower and fallen stones are still visible.

The Fallen Tower of Siloam, City of David, Jerusalem

The Discovery of the Tower of Siloam in 2004

Eli Shukron

Israeli Archaeologist

Education:
Shukron received his master's degree from the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Organization/Place of Work
He works for the Israeli Antiquities Authority

Bible Evidence:
John 9:1-5

He discovered the Biblical site of the Pool of Siloam in Southern Jerusalem and in the city of David. He has been excavating for past 18 years.

Contact Email:
elishu29@gmail.com

Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'13.18"N, 35°14'7.19"E

The Discovery of the Tower of Siloam in 2004

Dr. Ronny Reich
1947 - Present

Israeli Archaeologist

Education:
He received his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He obtained his Ph. D. with his dissertation on Jewish ritual baths in the second temple period.

Organization/Place of Work
He is now professor at the University of Haifa, Israel in the department of Archaeology where he serves as dept. head.

Bible Evidence:
John 9:1-5

He discovered the Biblical site of the Pool of Siloam in Southern Jerusalem and in the city of David.

Contact Email:
ronny@research.haifa.ac.il

Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'13.18"N, 35°14'7.19"E

39
N
Luke 13:1-9
Tower of Siloam
Jerusalem, Israel

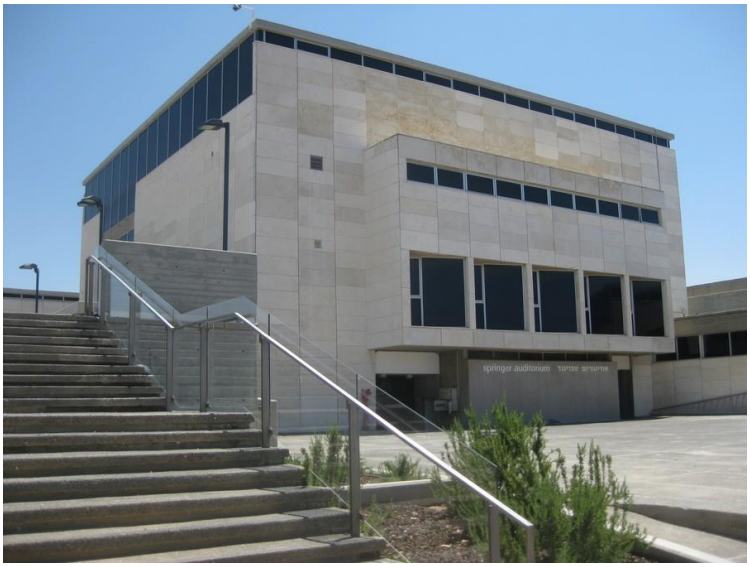
40. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF THE TRIBUTE PENNY OF TIBERIAS CAESAR

Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'19.40"N, 35°12'14.77"E

"Then the Pharisees went, and plotted how they might entangle Him in His speech. And they sent out to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You gratify anyone, because You do not regard the person of men. Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? Show Me the tax money." So they gave a denarius to Him. And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." Then He said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." Matthew 22:15-21 (KJV 2016)

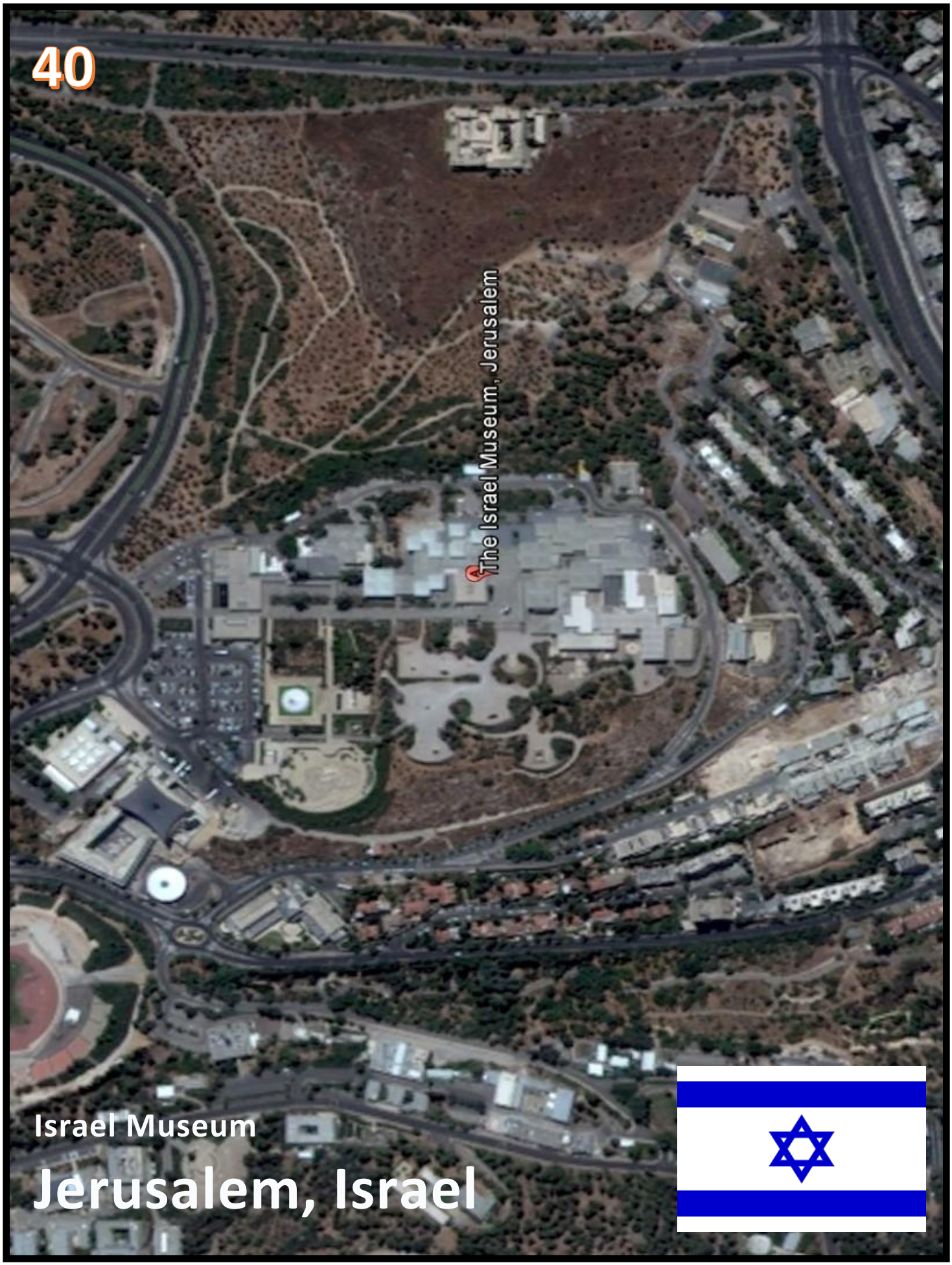
Jesus was questioned in Matthew 22:15-21 about whether or not to pay taxes to Caesar. Jesus asks the Pharisees to show Him the denarius. This denarius is a tribute penny of Tiberius Caesar, rare coins that can be purchased on eBay and are also on display in the Israel Museum. The coin was minted during the reign of Emperor Tiberius Caesar, 14-37 AD.

The Tribute Penny of Tiberias Caesar



The Israel Museum

40



Israel Museum

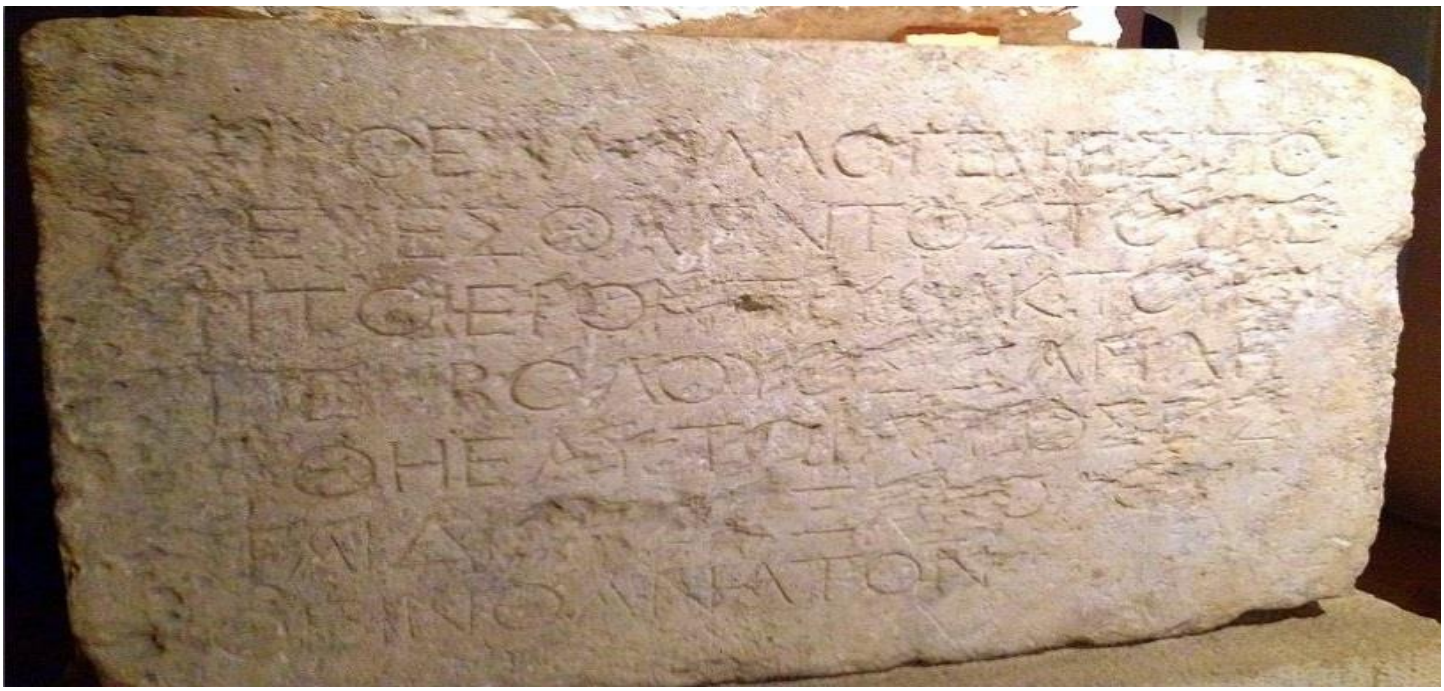
Jerusalem, Israel

41. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF HEROD'S TEMPLE – TEMPLE WARNING INSCRIPTION

Temple Mount, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'40.68"N, 35°14'7.41"E

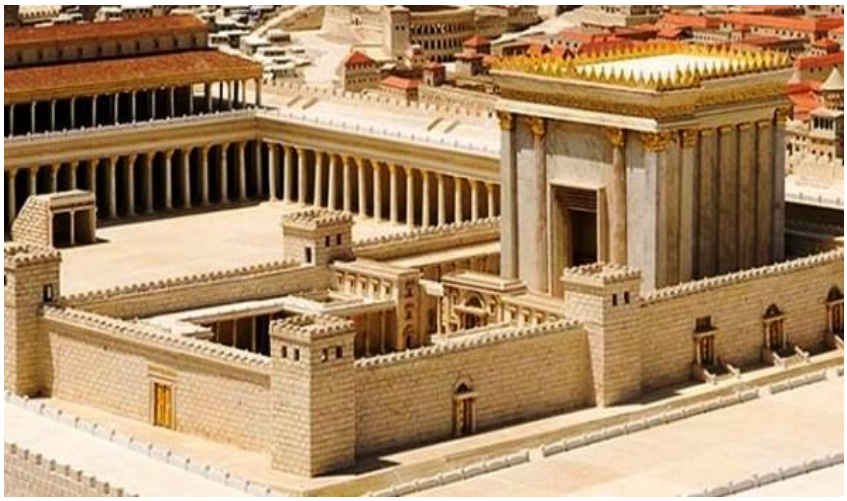
Then, as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, He said, "As for these things which you see, the days will come in which not one stone will be left upon another that will not be thrown down." Luke 21:5-6 (KJV 2016)

The prophet Malachi foretold that the Lord, the Messenger of the Covenant, would come suddenly to His temple and would purify the priests, the sons of Levi. Jesus came to the temple from just eight days old to just a few days before His death at 33. There He made a whip out of cords and drove money changers from the temple and rebuked the chief priests in fulfillment of the prophecy. Herod's Temple was built starting in 19 A.D. and it was the center and heart of the Jewish faith. In 1871, Charles Simon Clermont Ganneau, a French archaeologist, discovered a thick marble slab north of the temple mount in Jerusalem with an inscription in Greek which reads: "No foreigner is to enter within the balustrade and forecourt along the sacred precinct. Whoever is caught will himself be responsible for (his) consequent death." This inscription is located at the Istanbul Archaeology Museum.As well, a silver tetradachm from the Bar Kokhba period shows what the temple looked like from the front.

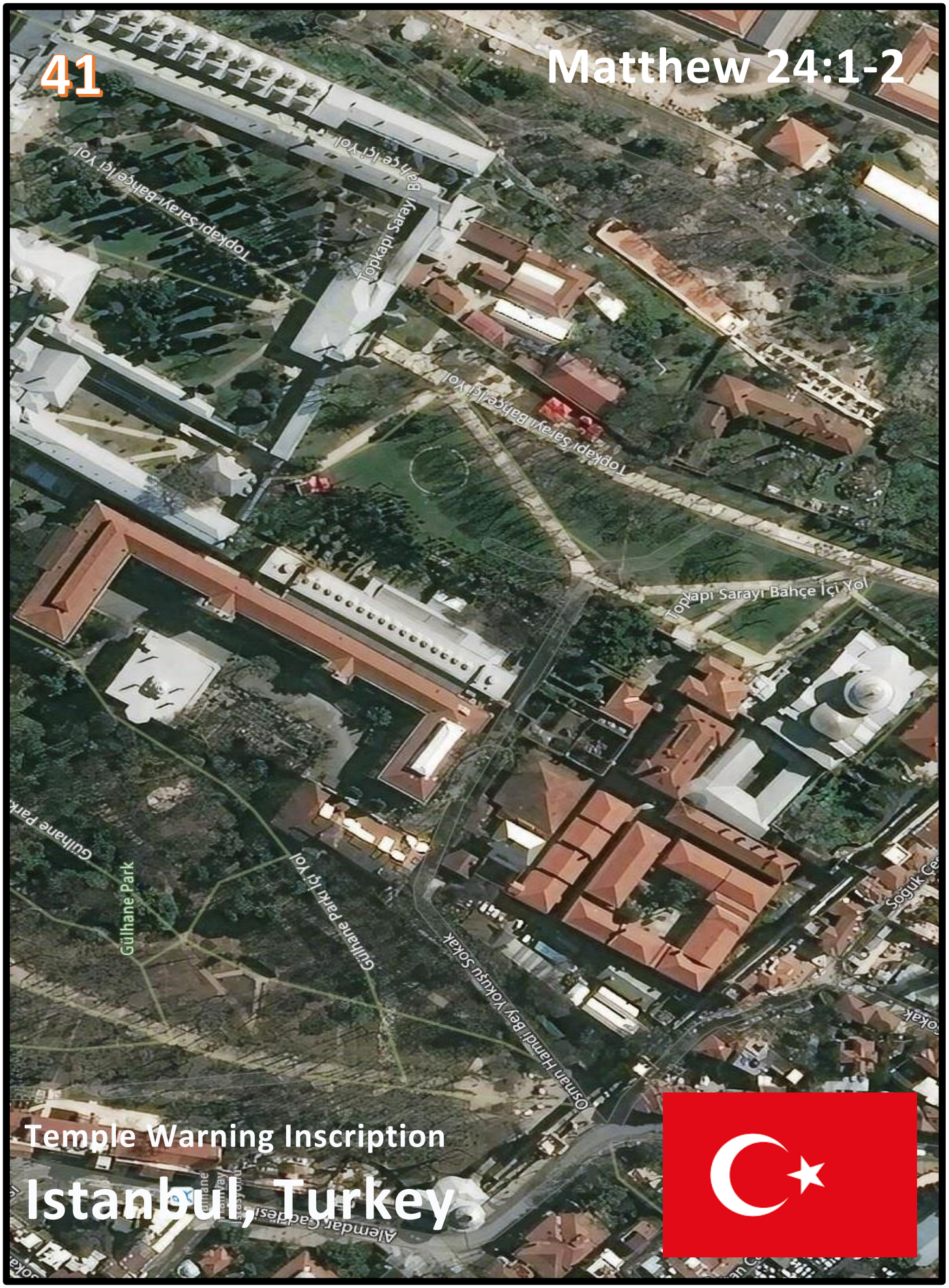


The Temple Warning Inscription at the Instanbul Archaeology Museum

Silver Tetradachm showing front of Temple



Model of Temple, Holyland Model of Jerusalem, Israel Museum Scale 1:50


41
Matthew 24:1-2
Topkapı Sarayı Bahçe İçi Yol
Gülhane Park
Gülhane Parkı İçi Yol
Osman Hamdi Bey Yokuşu Sokak
Temple Warning Inscription
Istanbul, Turkey

42. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF HEROD'S TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM

Temple Mount, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'40.68"N, 35°14'7.41"E

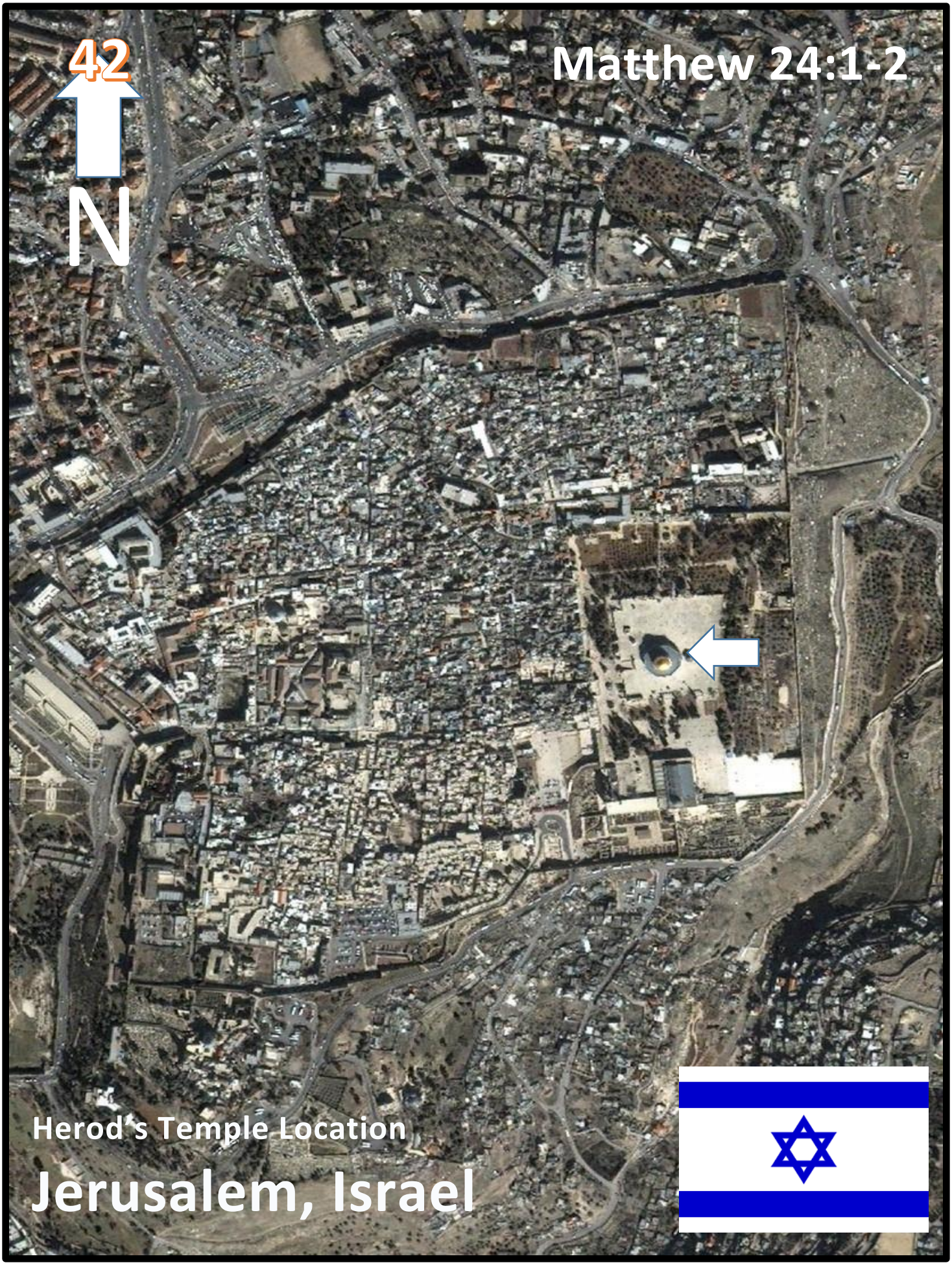
Then, as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, He said, "As for these things which you see, the days will come in which not one stone will be left upon another that will not be thrown down." Luke 21:5-6 (KJV 2016)

Jesus came to the temple from just eight days old to just a few days before His death at 33. Herod's Temple was built starting in 19 A.D. and it was the center and heart of the Jewish faith. Just recently an examination of landfill by the Temple Mount sifting project under Israeli archaeologist Dr. Gabriel Barkay is uncovering pieces of the tiles from Herod's temple. These tiles were ornate and multicolored and called "opus sectile', latin for cut work, which was a very expensive and prestigious type of tile. Indeed Herod's temple was an incredible piece of craftsmanship and the crowning jewel of Herod's building projects. It was the centerpiece of the Jewish faith and fabulously decorated. This is why the disciples were so impressed with the buildings of the temple in Matthew 24:1-2.

Floor tiles of the Temple that have been restored by archaeologists in Israel

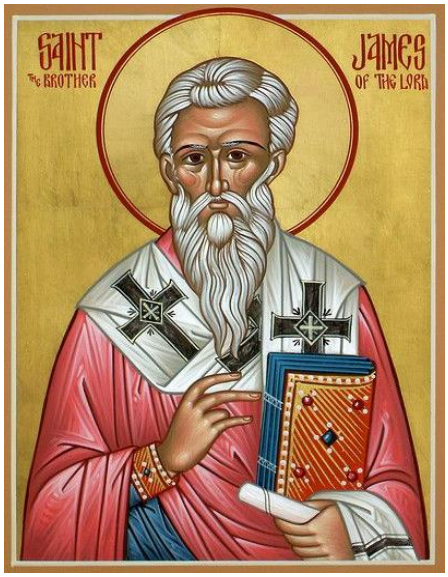
The Western Wailing Wall – the Foundation of Herod's Temple

Dr. Gabriel Barkay with Herod's temple tile design


42
N
Matthew 24:1-2
Herod's Temple Location
Jerusalem, Israel

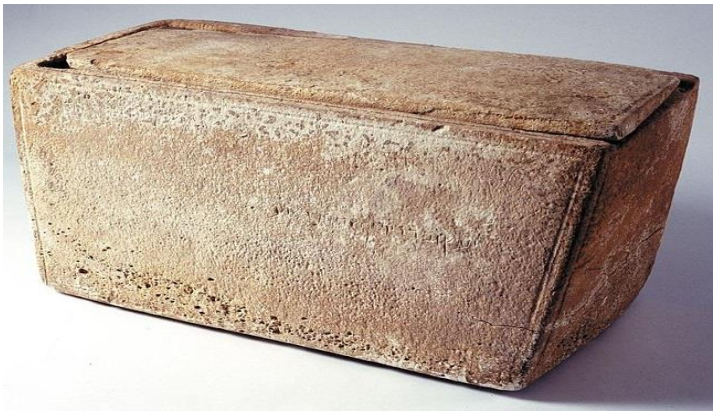
43. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR JAMES THE BROTHER OF JESUS

Present Location: UNKNOWN. In personal collection of Oded Golan

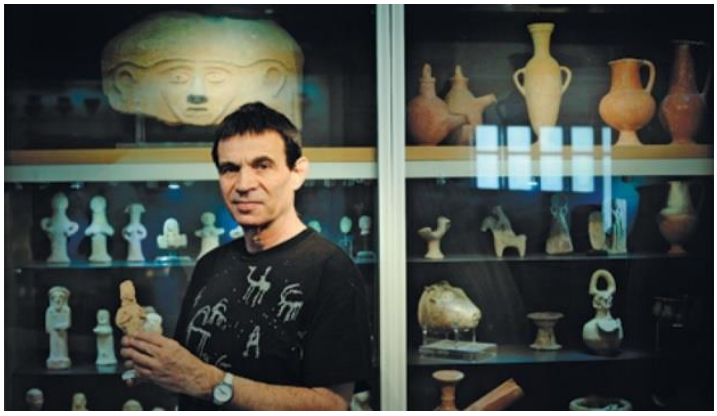


Then He went out from there and came into His own country, and His disciples followed Him. And when the Sabbath day had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that even such mighty works are performed by His hands? Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and the brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house." Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He marveled because of their unbelief. Mark 6:1-6 (KJV 2016)

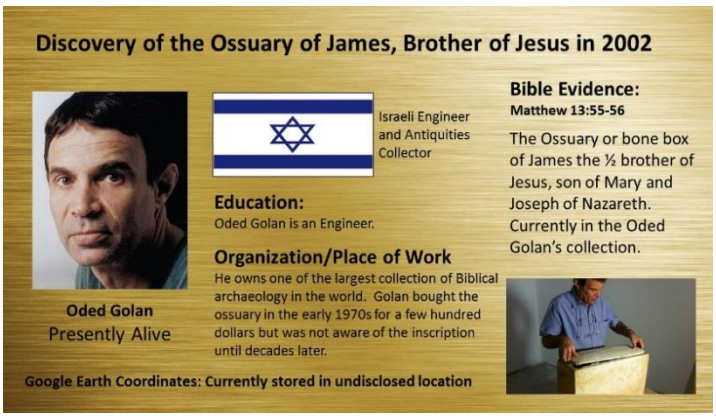
A stone box containing the bones of James, the half-brother of Jesus and leader of the Jerusalem church, was purchased in the 1970s for a few hundred dollars by Oded Golan, an Israeli engineer. He kept it for years with no idea what the inscription meant. When it was later examined, the ossuary read: "Jacob (James) son of Joseph, Brother of Jesus". James was the half-brother of Jesus according to Matthew 13:55-56. This ossuary was examined by Andre Lemaire, French Epigraphist and later Israeli Paleographer, Ada Yardeni. In 2002 Lemaire declared it to the world as the ossuary of James the brother of Jesus Christ. However, this discovery was later contested by the Israel Antiquities Authority and Oded Golan was charged with forgery. Ada Yardeni, after examining the ossuary and inscription, said: "If this is a forgery, I quit!" After an almost 8 year trial in an Israeli court, Oded Golan was cleared of all charges, for the court could not prove it was a forgery. Even Israeli archaeologist Gabriel Barkay believes it to be authentic. It is therefore the oldest written inscription referring to Jesus Christ.

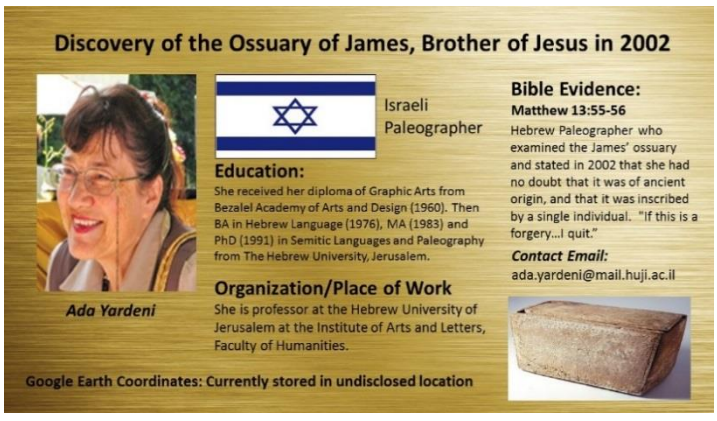


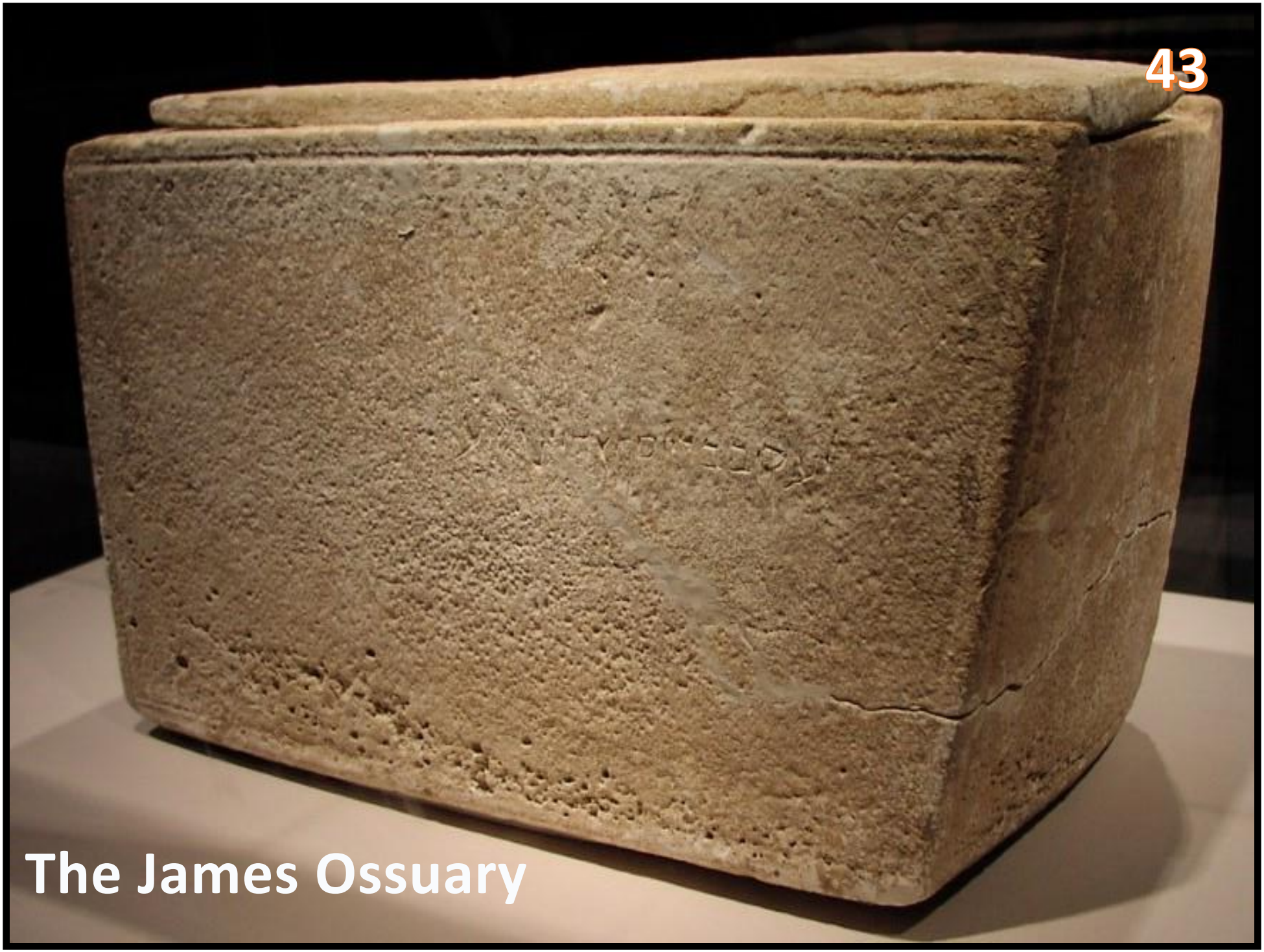
The Ossuary of Jacob (James) son of Joseph brother of Jesus



Oded Golan with his enormous private collection







The James Ossuary

44. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR WHERE JESUS WEPT OVER JERUSALEM

Dominus Flevit Church Grounds, Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'40.15"N, 35°14'30.24"E

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to you! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!" Luke 13:34 (KJV 2016)

In 1953, Dr. Bellarmino Bagatti, a Franciscan monk and archaeologist, began excavations at this site which overlooks Jerusalem. It was here where our Lord wept over the city. In Latin this is called "Dominus Flevit" and this is the name of the church that is built at that site. During Byzantine times there was a chapel in this location with mosaic floors. This site was later used by the Crusaders who must have known its importance. While construction was taking place on the church an amazing find was discovered. The oldest Christian cemetery ever found was located there. Ossuaries with inscriptions such as "Simon bar Jonah", "Mary / Martha" and "Sapphira" were found at this location. It was here where Jesus declared His love for Jerusalem and wept for the people of Israel.

The Dominus Flevit Church, Jerusalem, Israel

This Window shows the Cup of Suffering Jesus Took

44

Luke 13:34

Where Jesus wept over Jerusalem

Dominus Flevit Church

Jerusalem, Israel

45. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR MARY AND MARTHA OF BETHANY

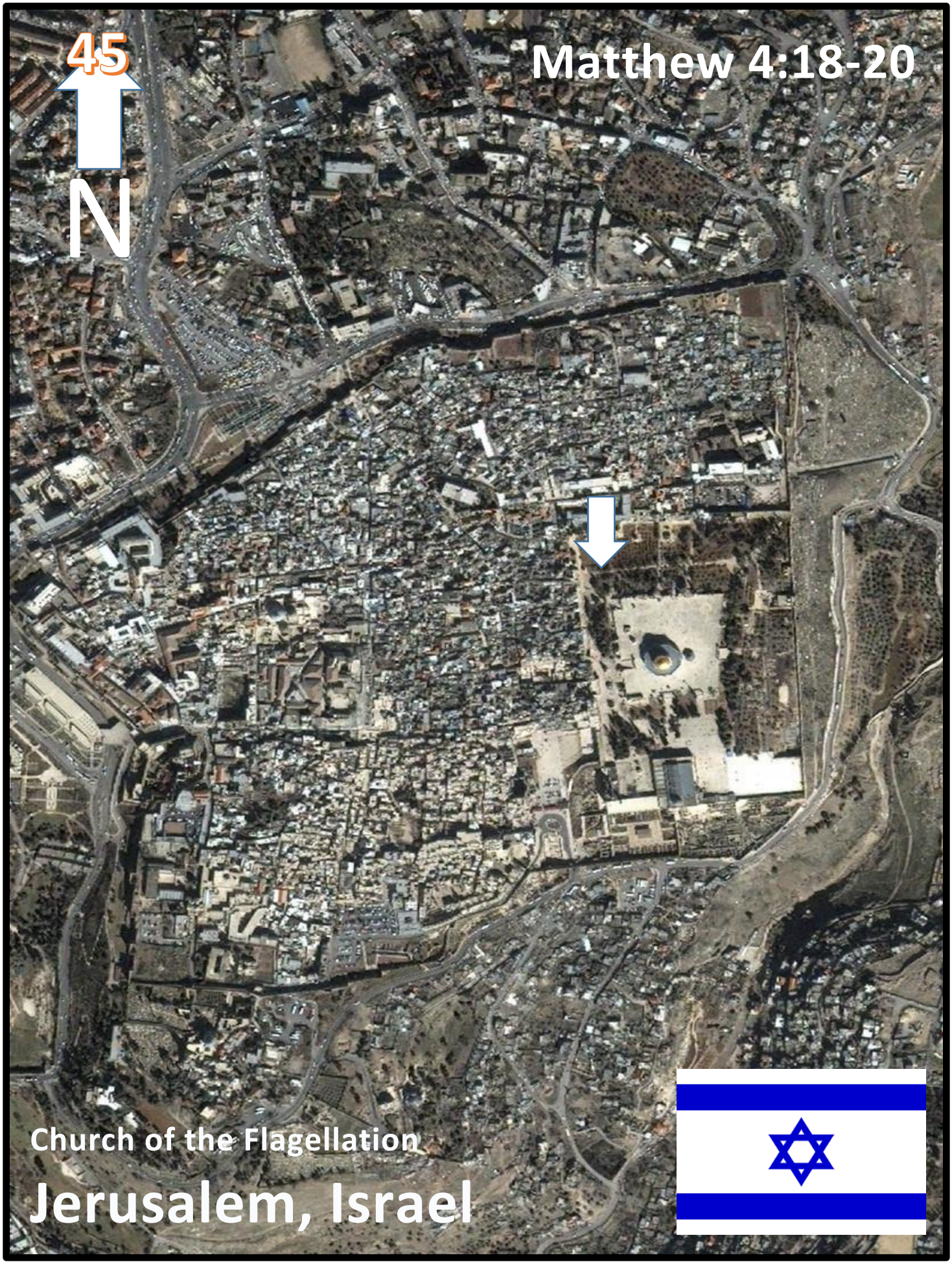
Dominus Flevit Church Grounds, Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'40.15"N, 35°14'30.24"E
The Ossuary is currently located in the Museum of the Flagellation, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'49.78"N, 35°14'3.19"E

Now it happened as they went that He entered into a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:38-42 (KJV 2016)

In 1953, while excavating on the Mount of Olives before the construction of the Dominus Flevit Church on this hill where Jesus wept for Jerusalem, Italian Franciscan archaeologist Dr. Father Bellarmino Bagatti found many ossuaries in three different caves. In one of the caves, he found a Christian symbol, the Greek Chi-Ro, which identified it as a Jewish Christian burial, at tomb number 79. In tomb number 79 they found an ossuary bearing the name Simon son of Jonah, which is the name of Simon Peter. As well, in tomb number 70 they found an ossuary bearing the names Mary and Martha, who were both from Bethany, as mentioned in detail in the gospels. Their findings were published in 1958 in "Gli Scavi del "Dominus Flevit" parte I", along with Father J. T. Milik, an expert in ancient languages and who was central to deciphering the Dead Sea Scrolls. This is direct physical evidence from the first century of the existence of Mary and Martha, as mentioned in Luke 10:38-42.

The Mary / Martha Ossuary, Site 70

Mary / Martha Inscription


45
N
Matthew 4:18-20
Church of the Flagellation
Jerusalem, Israel

46. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF THE EASTERN GATE WHERE THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY TOOK PLACE

Temple Mount, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'44.13"N, 35°14'14.03"E

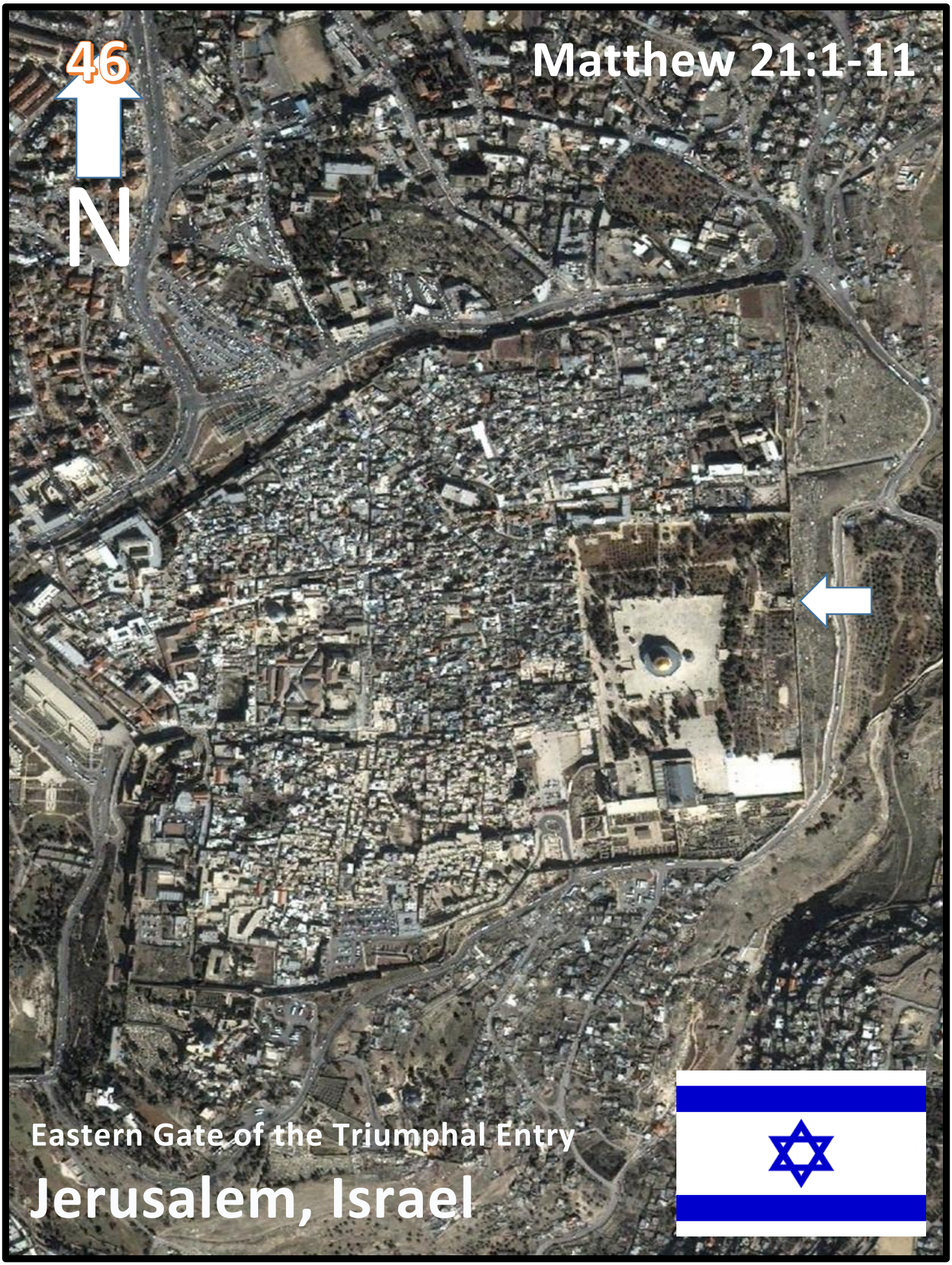
Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent out two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them, and bring them to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and he will immediately send them." All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, humble, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" Then the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, and brought the donkey and the colt, put their clothes on them, and they set Him on them. And a very large crowd spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds who went before and those who followed shouted out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! Hosanna in the highest!" And when He came into Jerusalem, the entire city was moved saying, "Who is this?" Then the crowd said, "This is Jesus the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee." Matthew 21:1-11 (KJV 2016)

The prophet Zechariah foretold that the King of the Jewish people would come to Jerusalem, a just person and having salvation, humble and riding on a young donkey. Then the prophet Ezekiel foretold that the Lord God of Israel would pass through the Eastern gate and that it should remain sealed. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy as He entered Jerusalem's Golden Gate that great day – and today the gate is completely sealed up. However, in 1969, Dr. James Fleming, who was then completing his Master of Archaeology degree, was leading a group of pilgrims near the Yeusefiya Islamic Cemetery, outside Jerusalem's Eastern Gate. As he approached the closed Golden Gate near the cemetery to take a picture of the arch, he fell through the floor of a tomb 8 feet (2.4 meters) down and landed on top of a pile of bones. It was a mass grave with 46 individuals buried there in the past 100 years or so. Fleming grabbed his camera and took a photograph of an ancient arch which was underground—the very arch of the Eastern Gate from the time of Jesus when He came through this gate into the temple in Jerusalem.

The Sealed Golden Gate of Jerusalem

Fleming's Photo of arch of the older Eastern Gate in Jerusalem

Dr. James Fleming


46
N
Matthew 21:1-11
Eastern Gate of the Triumphal Entry
Jerusalem, Israel

47. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF WHERE THE LAST SUPPER AND PENTECOST TOOK PLACE

Mount Zion, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'17.74"N, 35°13'44.68"E

When came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed. And He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat." So they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare?" And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered into the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he enters. Then you will say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"' Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready." So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover. Luke 22:7-13 (KJV 2016)

In Luke 22:7-13 we read how Jesus told his disciples to prepare for the Passover in a furnished upper room. This place on Mount Zion is probably the same location where the disciples were all meeting of one accord in Acts 2 when the Holy Spirit came and the Christian church was born. The prophet Isaiah foretold that the Lord God would lay a foundation stone in Zion. This was fulfilled with the birth of the church upon Jesus the true foundation stone. The prophet Zephaniah foretold that God would I restore to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one accord. This was also fulfilled in the upper room when the disciples spoke in tongues. Cyril of Jerusalem called this place the Upper Room of Pentecost on Mount Zion in 348 A.D. The upper room can be seen depicted of the Madaba map of 540 A.D., and it was known as the "Upper Church of the Apostles." The style of architecture in the room strongly indicates that this room was built by the Crusaders in the 12th century or soon afterward by the Franciscans. After the expulsion of the Crusaders it was used as a mosque, and in 1948, when Israel became a nation, it was taken over by the Israeli government. Below the upper room is the traditional site of the tomb of King David.

The Upper Room of the Apostles depicted in the Madaba map

Madaba Map Depiction of Jerusalem in the mid-6th Century

The Cenaculum, Mount Zion, Jerusalem

47
N
Luke 22:7-13
The Upper Room of the Disciples
Jerusalem, Israel

48. THIS IS THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'43.93"N, 35°14'23.31"E

And He came out, and went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you do not enter into temptation." And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if You are willing, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation." Luke 22:39-46 (KJV 2016)

The prophet Joel foretold that He would gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat and enter into judgement with them there on account of the Jewish people whom they had scattered among the nations. The Garden of Gethsemane is located in the Valley of Jehoshaphat. St. Jerome (c. 347-420 AD), a historian and priest in ancient times, mentions Gethsemane, which means "oil press", the place where Jesus prayed with His disciples before His arrest as found in Luke 22:39-46. There was a 4th century church built at the site in the days of St. Jerome, but it was destroyed by the Persian army in 614 A.D., then rebuilt only to be destroyed again in 746 by a powerful earthquake. The Church of All Nations is located here, built upon the ruins of the Byzantine and Crusader churches. It was built in 1922 by the Franciscans and 16 nations in total went in together to help build the church. Within this church is the rock where it is believed Jesus prayed in agony and His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. It is a sacred space where visitors must be extra quiet in reverence. In the garden are ancient olive trees which could have been the very same ones Jesus saw in his time of agony before the cross.

The Garden of Gethsemane Olive Grove

The Rock upon which Jesus sweat drops of blood

The Church of all Nations

48
Matthew 26:36
Garden of Gethsemane, Mount of Olives
Jerusalem, Israel

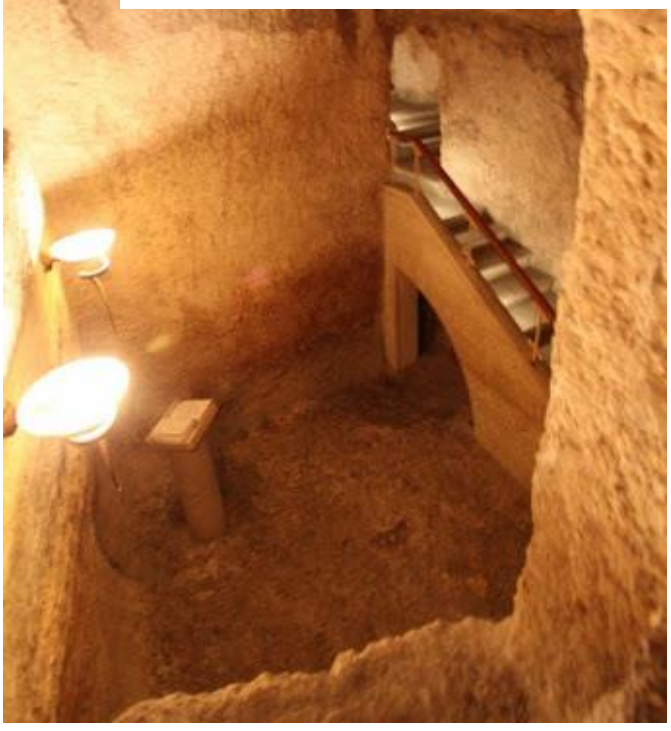
49. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF WHERE JESUS WAS HELD AS PRISONER

Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31° 46' 17" N, 35° 13' 55" E

Then Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!" And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So Peter went out and wept bitterly. Luke 22:60-62 (KJV 2016)

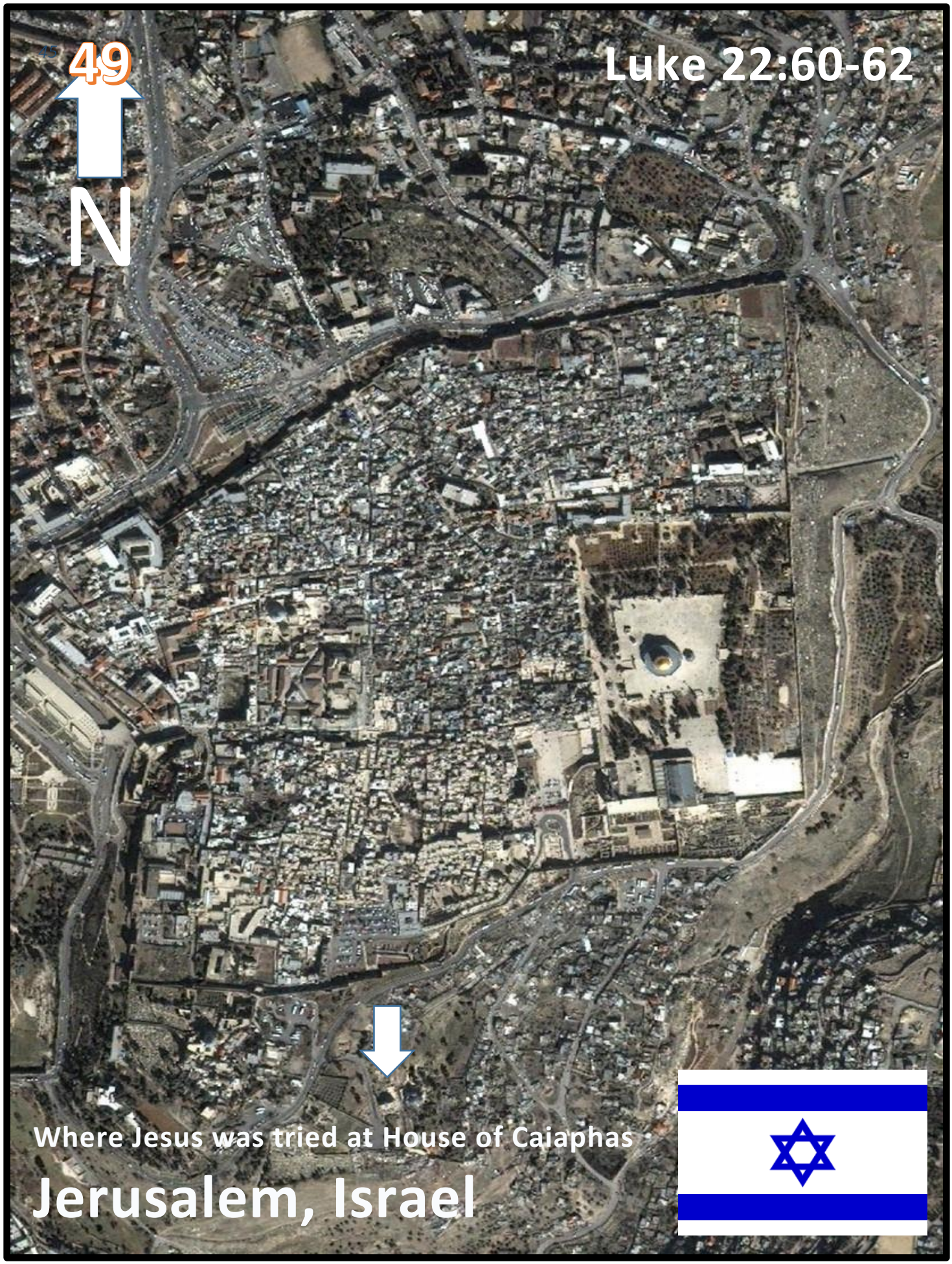
In the year 333 AD, pilgrims recorded visiting the house of Caiaphas the high priest in Jerusalem. Then in 457 AD a church was built at the site of Peter's denial of Jesus. The present church was built in 1932 and is called the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu. Gallicantu means "cock crow" and is on the Eastern slope of Mount Zion. After Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter followed right into the courtyard of the high priest, Caiaphas. At this place Peter denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed twice. Today a golden rooster sits on top of a black cross to remind pilgrims of Peters' denial and repentance. Then Jesus was unjustly tried and condemned as deserving of death. He was then placed in a dungeon after his mock trial awaiting trial before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. This dungeon is called Christ's prison, and Jesus would have been lowered by rope harness. Like Joseph, who was betrayed by his brothers and thrown into a pit, Jesus would have spent hours here before his suffering and crucifixion for the sins of the world. This is now a sacred place of pilgrimage for Christians.

The Church of of St. Peter in Gallicantu, Jerusalem



Christ's Prison beneath the Church of Gallicantu, Jerusalem

The Statue of Peter Denying Christ before 3 people with Rooster on Top that Crowed before dawn


49
N
Luke 22:60-62
Where Jesus was tried at House of Caiaphas
Jerusalem, Israel

50. THIS IS HEROD'S PALACE COMPLEX WHERE JESUS STOOD TRIAL BEFORE PONTIUS PILATE

Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'33.90"N, 35°13'40.93"E

Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" And Jesus said to him, "It is as you say." And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He did not reply. Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly. Matthew 27:11-14 (KJV 2016)

This site, named the Kishle, right next to the citadel and Tower of David complex, is where Amit Re'em, an Israeli archaeologist, started excavations in 1999. When he dug through layers of history, he uncovered the foundation of a fortification wall built by Hezekiah, a defensive wall from the Hasmonean period, and Herod the Great's Jerusalem palace wall. This palace was a very large complex, and after Herod's death, the sons of Herod and Roman officials would administer much of Palestine from the building. While the prefect would normally be at the provincial capital Caesarea, he would travel to Jerusalem for Passover in order to maintain order among the masses of Jews who converged on the Temple from the entire region. It was here that Pontius Pilatus tried Jesus Christ. Here Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah which foretold that Jesus would be led as a lamb to the slaughter and silent as a quiet lamb before shearing. It was also here that Jesus Christ fulfilled the prophecy of Micah which said that men "will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek. " This occurred when the Roman soldiers mocked Jesus saying "Hail King of the Jews".

The Kishle, adjacent to the Tower of David

50

N

Matthew 27:11-14

Where Jesus was tried by Pontius Pilate

Jerusalem, Israel

51. THIS IS THE TRADITIONAL SITE OF JESUS' DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION

Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'42.54"N, 35°13'46.55"E

Then they crucified Him, and divided His clothes, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken through the prophet: "They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." And sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. And they put over His head the charge written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then two thieves were crucified with Him, one on the right, and another on the left. And those who passed by reviled Him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who destroy the temple, and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." Likewise the chief priests also, mocking Him with the scribes and elders, said, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself! If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now, if He will have Him; since He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" Matthew 27:33-43 (KJV 2016)

The holiest place in Catholic and Orthodox Christianity is the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Built in 335 A.D. this church was filled with smaller places of worship that date back to the 4th century. The most sacred of places would be the site of the crucifixion, an altar, where worshippers can kneel and place their hand down into the rock where the cross is believed to have stood. As well, there is the aedicule, or little house, the empty tomb of Jesus. This was built by Constantine after he became emperor of Rome. The rock-hewn tomb was said to have been mostly removed, leaving the actual inner part of the tomb intact, and an aedicule was built around it. As well, there is the stone of anointing, where it is believed the body of Jesus was laid after the crucifixion. These sites are believed by Catholics and Orthodox believers to be the actual site of the crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus as portrayed in John 19:41.

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher

The Place of Crucifixion

The Stone of Anointing

The "Edicule" or Tomb of Christ in the Anastasis Rotunda

51
N
John 19:41
Church of the Holy Sepulcher
Jerusalem, Israel

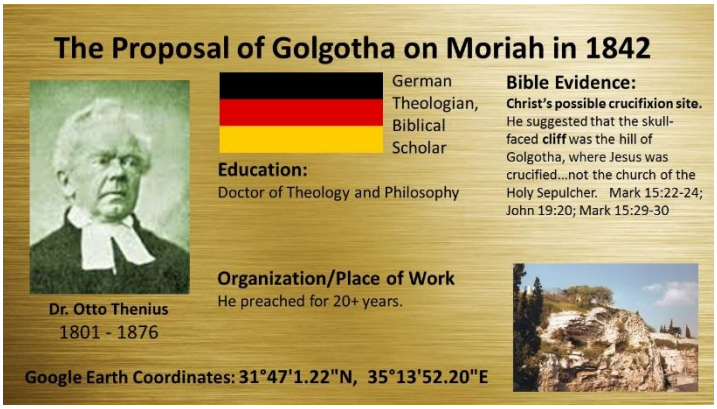
52. THIS IS THE ALTERNATE SITE OF JESUS' CRUCIFIXION – GORDON'S CALVARY

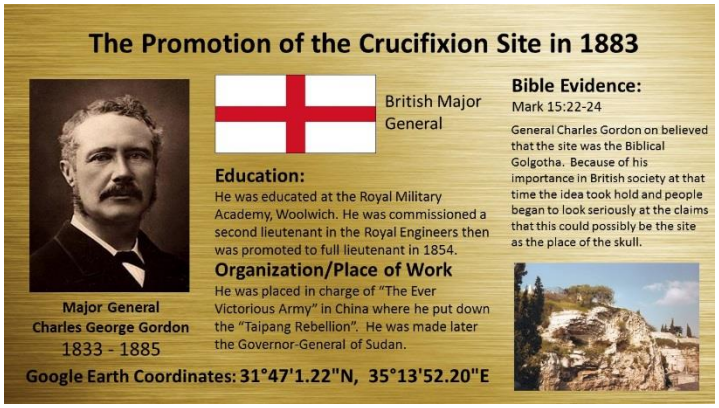
Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°47'1.22"N, 35°13'52.20"E

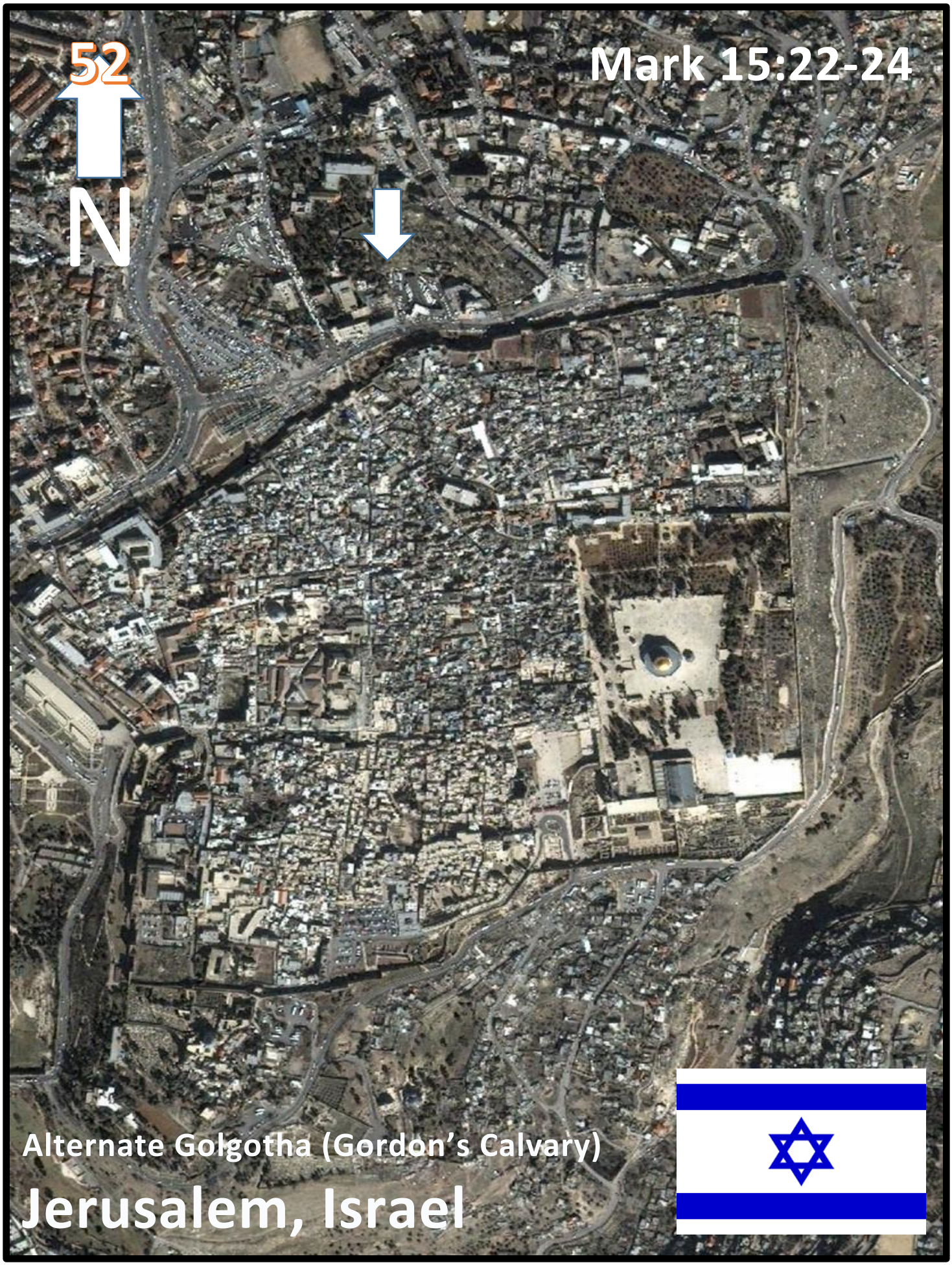
And they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, The Place of a Skull. Then they gave Him wine mingled with myrrh to drink, but He did not take it. And when they crucified Him, they divided His clothes, casting lots for them to determine what every man should take. Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him. And the inscription of His accusation was written above: THE KING OF THE JEWS. And with Him they also crucified two thieves, one on His right and the other on His left. Mark 15:22-27 (KJV 2016)

This alternate site for the crucifixion of Jesus was initially proposed by Otto Thenius, a German theologian, in 1842 and then by British Major-General Charles Gordon in 1883. They believed that the 4th century church of the Holy Sepulcher did not fit well the Biblical account. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher was on Mount Zion instead of on Mount Moriah, the holy mountain of God where sacrifices were made by Abraham (with Isaac) and Solomon (Temple Mount). As well, it was within the city limits, although some archaeologists maintain that the site was incorporated into the city of Jerusalem in 41 AD. This site, north of Jerusalem, is the highest point on Mount Moriah, and is located in an abandoned quarry, with the "skull" visible in the rock complete with eye sockets, and right along the road to Damascus as you leave Jerusalem through the Damascus gate. This was a place of stoning, but this practice was outlawed by the Romans and replaced with a more prolonged manner of execution. People would have passed by Jesus as he hung on the cross, as the gospel said.

Gordon's Calvary and Summit of Mount Moriah





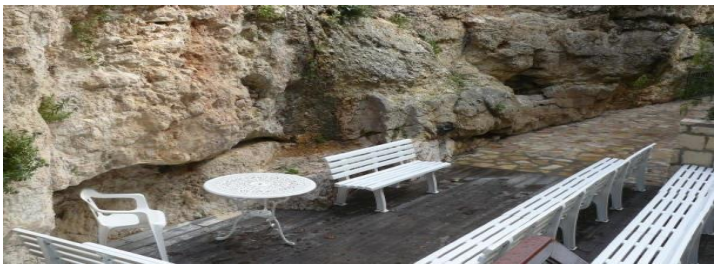

52
N
Mark 15:22-24
Alternate Golgotha (Gordon's Calvary)
Jerusalem, Israel

53. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE ALTERNATE EXACT SITE OF JESUS' CRUCIFIXION

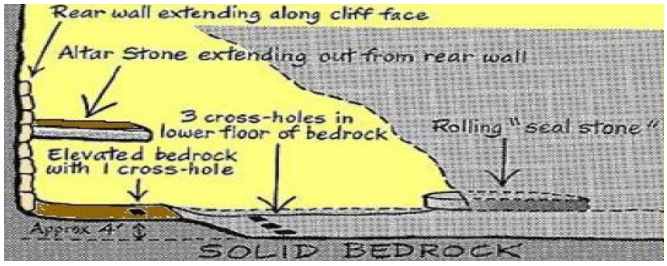
Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°47'0.87"N, 35°13'50.48"E

And they put over His head the charge written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then two thieves were crucified with Him, one on the right, and another on the left. Matthew 27:37-38 (KJV 2016)

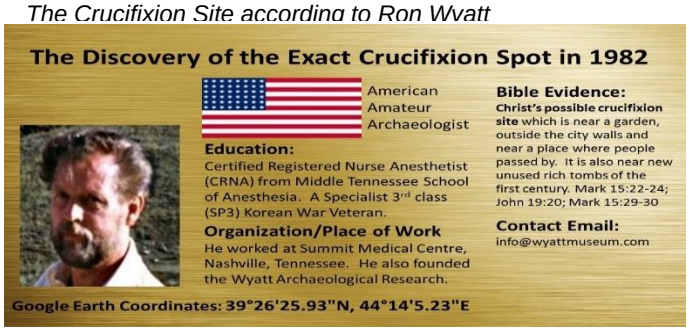
As Jesus hung on the cross He quoted the Psalm of David, Psalm 22, where David cried out to God "Why have you forsaken me?" Later the psalm says: "For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;" Crucifixion involves piercing hands and feet, yet this practice did not exist in the days of King David. This was a prophecy that was fulfilled in Jesus crucifixion. Then the prophet Zechariah foretold that God would be pierced in Jerusalem. He says "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem. This was fulfilled with the crucifixion of the Only Begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ at this place. In 1981, American nurse anesthetist, Korean War veteran and experienced amateur archaeologist Ron Wyatt discovered what he believes is the exact place of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. As he excavated along the rock face wall about 262 feet (80 m) from the eye sockets of the skull formation on the northern part of Mount Moriah, he discovered three small cut depressions which he believed were the places where the Romans put the signs with the accusation against the condemned criminals. As well, he discovered an altar stone which he believed was placed there by early Christians who knew the place of the crucifixion well. Into the bedrock right at the site was carved a total of four square-shaped holes, which he believes held the crosses at this place of execution. There were three on the lower rock and one above in the middle, where Jesus would have been crucified—this hole had a crack in it from the earthquake that took place when Jesus died at 3 p.m. Plugging this central hole was a square-shaped rock plug which was used to cover the place when it was not being used. This is still in the possession of the late Ron Wyatt's wife, Mary Nell Wyatt. These details match the crucifixion descriptions in the gospels.

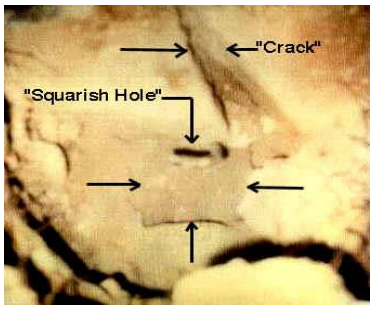


The Crucifixion Site according to Ron Wyatt

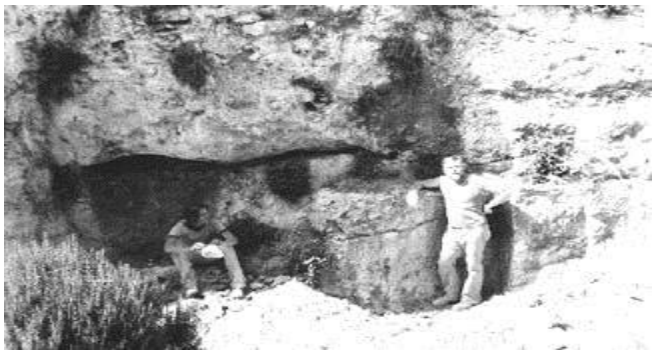


A Pictorial Description of Wyatt's Findings

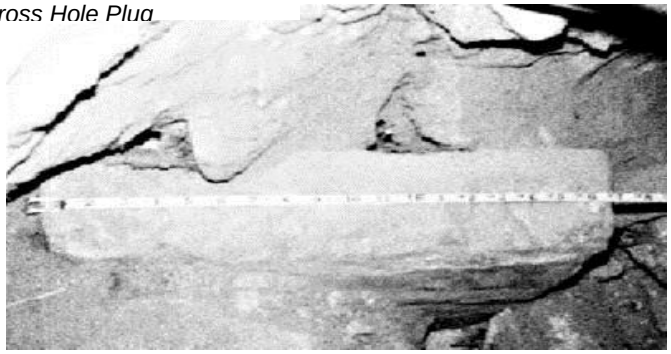




The Cross Hole Plug



Ron Wyatt at excavation site with his son Ronny



The Altar Stone at the Site

53
N
Mark 15:22-24
Alternate Crucifixion Site of Jesus
Jerusalem, Israel

54. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF A FIRST CENTURY CRUCIFIXION VICTIM

Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°48'11.17"N, 35°13'51.89"E

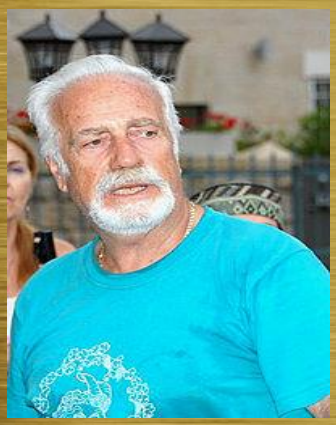
And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him. Mark 15:22 (KJV 2016)

In 1968, contractors from Israel's Ministry of Housing were working in Giv'at ha-Mivtar, a Jewish neighborhood in northeast Jerusalem, accidentally found a Jewish tomb from the 1st century. The tomb was excavated by Vassilios Tzaferis, a Greek born Israeli archaeologist. Inside the tomb was found a Jewish stone ossuary with the inscription "Jehohanan son of Hagkol". Inside the ossuary was a heel bone with a 4.5 inch (11.5 cm) iron nail through it. The victim had been crucified by piercing the heel bone with a nail into wood. The victim was a man in his late 20s, and when the nail was driven into the olive wood, it hit a hard knot, which was so hard that it caused the iron nail to bend as it was driven in. A piece of olive wood was discovered still attached to the nail. On the head side of the nail was attached a piece of acacia wood. Likely because the nail was stuck into the knot and immoveable, the foot had to be amputated when the body was removed from the cross. At first examination, it was believed that the nail had gone through the victim's 2 feet, but examination later in 1985 showed that the nail only went through one heel bone. This is direct physical evidence of the practice of crucifixion in the first century among the Jews according to Mark 15:22-24.

Ossuary of Jehohanan son of Hagkol

Heel bone pierced with 7-inch Roman Nail

The Discovery of a Crucifixion victim in 1968



Dr. Vassilios Tzaferis
1936 - 2015

Greek Archaeologist

Education:

He became an ordained deacon in the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate. Then he received a BA in Archaeology from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Then he received his Ph.D in Archaeology in 1970.

Organization/Place of Work

He worked for many years for the Israeli Antiquities Authority.

Bible Evidence:

Dr. Tzaferis also made excavations at Kursi, discovering the largest byzantine monastery in Israel from 1970-1973, then again in 2001-2002.

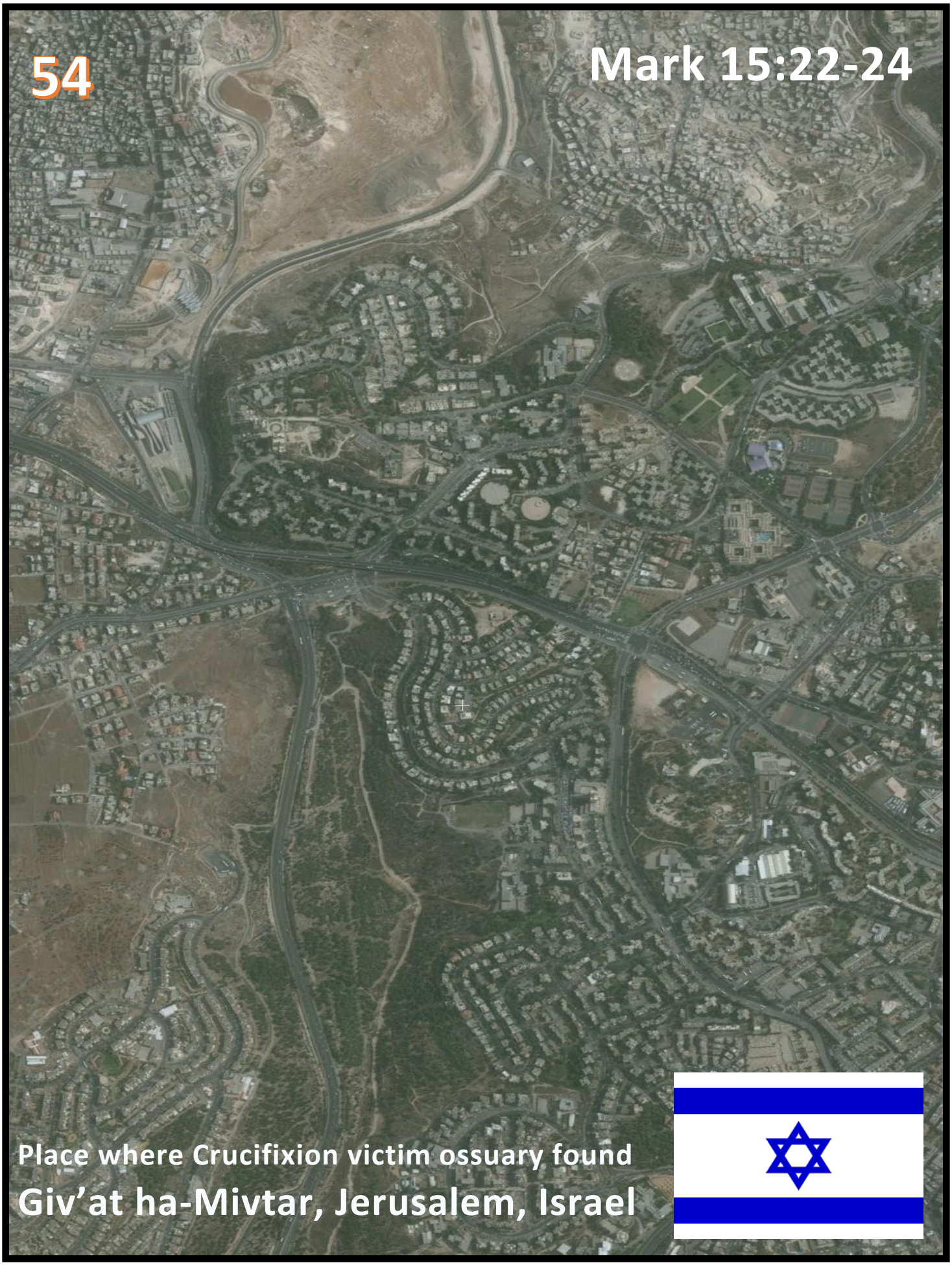
Bible Passage:

Matthew 8:28-34

Google Earth Coordinates: 31°48'11.17"N, 35°13'51.89"E

54

Mark 15:22-24



Place where Crucifixion victim ossuary found

Giv’at ha-Mivtar, Jerusalem, Israel

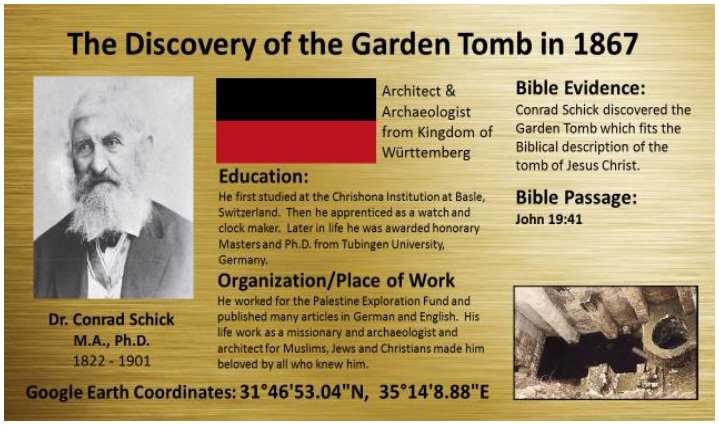
55. THIS IS THE GARDEN TOMB, WHERE JESUS CHRIST WAS RAISED TO LIFE

Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°47'2.39"N, 35°13'49.07"E

Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. John 19:41 (KJV 2016)

The prophet Isaiah foretold the Messiah's suffering and death: He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. And they made His grave with the wicked-- But with the rich at His death. Earlier, the prophet David, King of Israel, foretold the resurrection of the Holy One. He writes: For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. This is the place of the burial and resurrection of the Messiah – the tomb of the rich Joseph of Arimathea. In this place, the tomb According to John 19:41, there was a garden tomb near the place where Jesus was crucified. Discovered in 1867 by Conrad Schick, a German archaeologist, the Garden tomb seems to fit the descriptions given in the gospels about Jesus' empty tomb. Firstly, the gospel says that the tomb was located in a garden and that it was a rock-carved tomb, not a natural cave. Excavations revealed a Roman-era winepress and a Crusader-era cistern that can hold 250,000 gallons (950,000 L) on the grounds. Perhaps this cistern was expanded from what was a 1st century cistern. This very elaborate tomb has the burial area to the right, as the gospels says, and also has a weeping chamber where the three women went into the tomb. The gospels tell us that two angels sat where Jesus' body had lain—one at the head and one at the foot. This indicates that the tomb was large enough to accommodate five people at one time—and this is true of this unique tomb, for only a rich person could afford such a grave. On the outside there is the track for the rolling stone, a basin for foot washing for early Christians, an anchor cross to the upper left of the doorway (which was the insignia used during the persecuted church era), and a curious fragment of metal in the rock face, which was analyzed and found to be a mixture of iron and lead. These two metals, when used together, would form a very strong seal to perhaps hold the Roman seal which was on the rolling stone. Finally, this place was part of a building, most likely a church at one time, as Byzantine-style archways are visible outside the tomb. All together this site fits the many descriptive points as mentioned in the gospel. Israeli archaeologist Dr. Gabriel Barkay believes that the tomb is not the tomb of Jesus, but is rather a tomb from the 7th century B.C. and that the groove is a Crusader-period water trough for animals. This tomb, however, is an elaborate grave, not a customary grave from the 1st century or earlier centuries, and it matches the Biblical account word for word. The gospels are also talking about an elaborate grave that is also not typical of the 1st century except for the rolling stone, which was used by some tombs during that time.

The Garden Tomb, Jerusalem



EVIDENCE FOR THE GARDEN TOMB

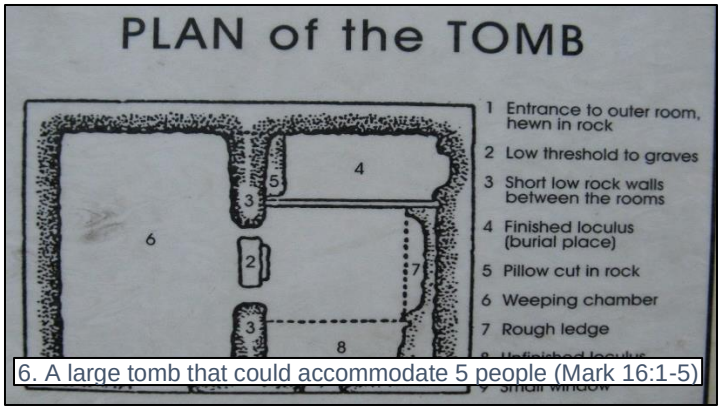
1. The Tomb was located near but outside the city (John 19:20)

2. The tomb was near the "Place of a Skull" (John 19:41)

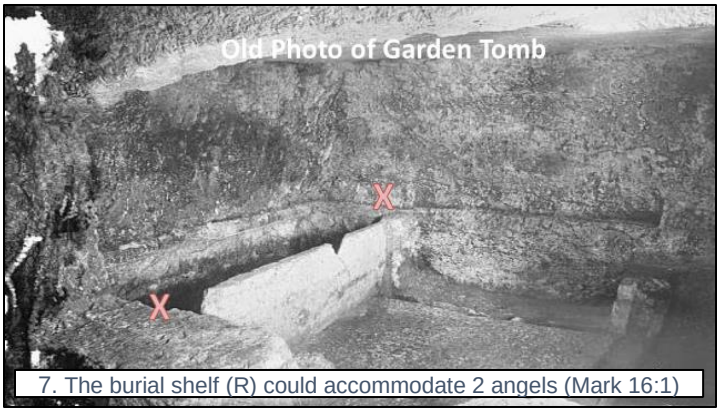
3. The Tomb was located in a garden (John 19:41)

4. New tomb cut out of Solid Rock (Matthew 27:60)

5. An Entrance requiring one to stoop down (John 20:5)



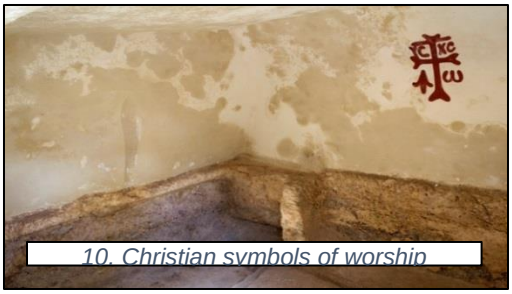
6. A large tomb that could accommodate 5 people (Mark 16:1-5)



7. The burial shelf (R) could accommodate 2 angels (Mark 16:1)

8. A track-guided sealed rolling stone covered the door (Matt. 27:60)

9. Base of Roman seal still in rock



10. Christian symbols of worship

11. Early Christian symbols

12. Byzantine style arch structure with foot washing at left

13. Cross carved in rock to right of tomb

55

John 19:41-42

The Garden Tomb

Jerusalem, Israel

56. THIS IS WHERE THE OSSUARY OF HIGH PRIEST CAIAPHAS WAS FOUND

Peace Forest, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°45'31.00"N, 35°13'43.00"E

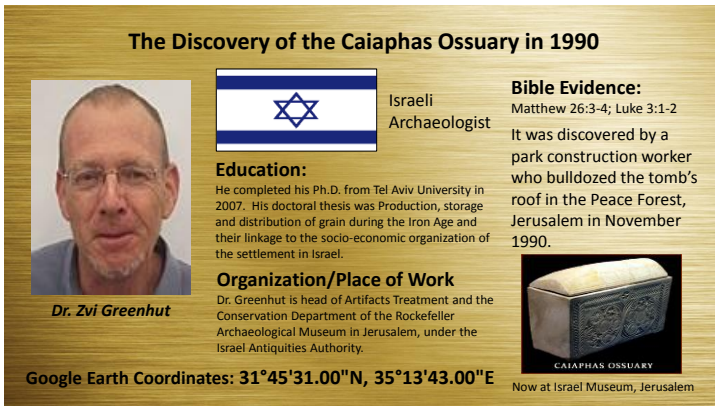
Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? Because this Man does many miracles. If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation." And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the entire nation should perish." Now this he did not say from himself; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad. Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death. John 11:47-53 (KJV 2016)

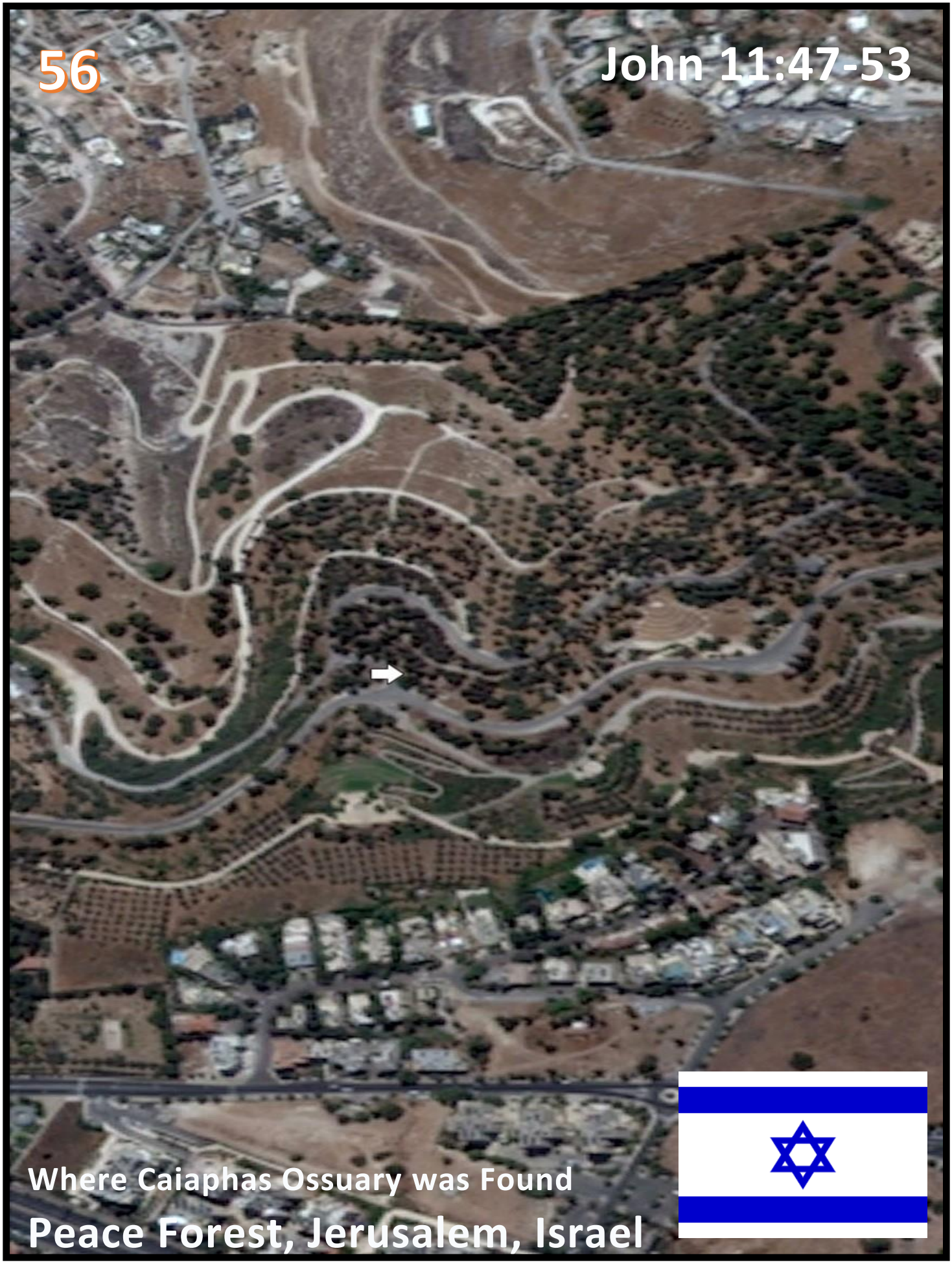
Construction workers discovered a burial chamber in 1990 in the Peace Forest, South Jerusalem. Dr. Zvi Greenhut, an Israeli archaeologist with the Israeli Antiquities Authority, examined the chamber. Inside this burial chamber were 12 ossuaries, or bone boxes, belonging to the family of the high priest before the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. One ossuary was ornately decorated and had an inscription in Aramaic which read "Joseph son of Caiaphas". Within this ossuary were the bones of an approximately 60-year-old male. It also held the bones of two infants, two teenage boys and an adult woman. The Jewish historian Josephus relates that "Joseph who was also called Caiaphas" was made high priest by the Procurator Valerius Gratus in 18 A.D. and that he was removed by the Procurator Vitellius in 36 A.D. So, this is definitely the ossuary of Caiaphas the high priest who schemed to put Jesus to death, as recorded in Matthew 26:3-4. It is now on display at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

The Entrance to the Tomb of Caiaphas

Peace Forest, Jerusalem

The Ornate Caiaphas Ossuary



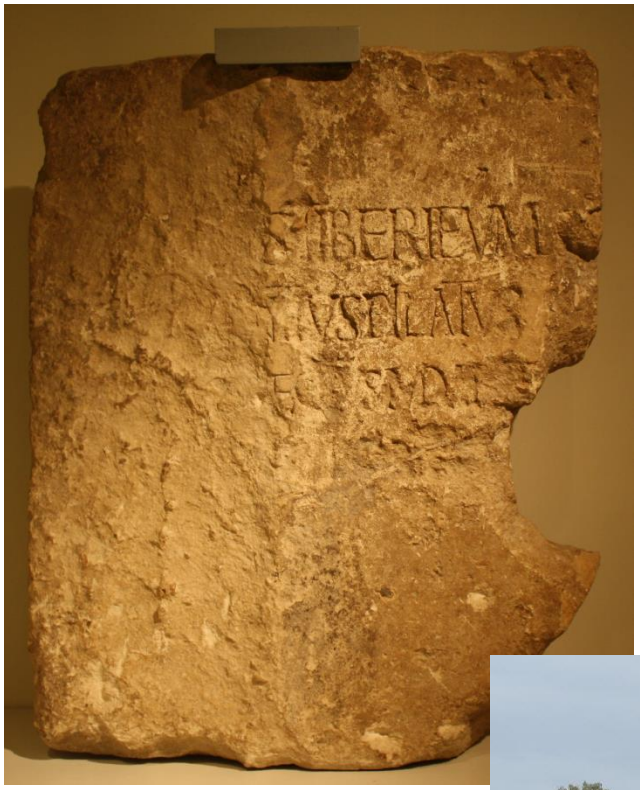

56
John 11:47-53
Where Caiaphas Ossuary was Found
Peace Forest, Jerusalem, Israel

57. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF PONTIUS PILATE GOVERNOR OF JUDEA

Found in Theatre in Caesarea Maritima, Israel. Google Coordinates: 32°29'45.68"N, 34°53'27.49"E
Now in Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Coordinates: 31°46'19.39"N, 35°12'14.73"E

Then Pilate entered the judgment hall again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I have come into the world, that I should testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all. John 18:33-38 (KJV 2016)

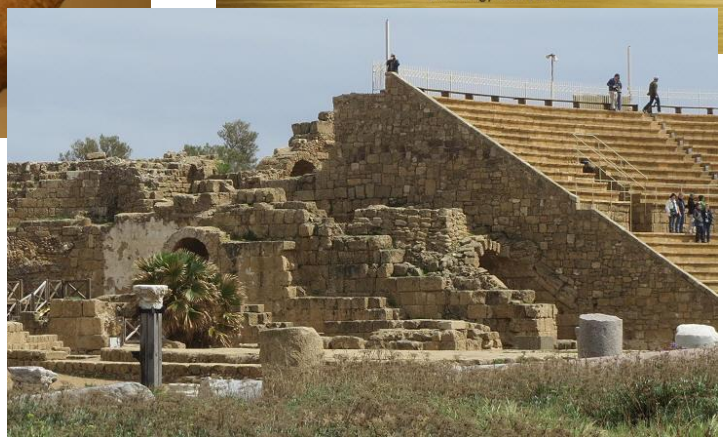
In Matthew 27:1-11 we read about Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor who tried Jesus. Unfortunately, there was no concrete evidence for Pontius Pilate's existence until in an archaeological team led by Dr. Antonio Frova, Italian archaeologist, and his team excavated the ancient port city of Caesarea Maritima in 1961. This city was formerly the capital of the Roman province of Judea, where the Roman governor resided for most of the year. As the theatre in Caesarea Philippi was excavated, Dr. Antonio Frova discovered a stone with an inscription bearing the name Pontius Pilate. The Latin inscription in limestone reads: "To the divine Augustus [this] Tiberium...Pontius Pilatus….Prefect of Judea…..has dedicated [this]." The inscription, originally placed in a Tiberium or temple dedicated to the divine Emperor Tiberius Caesar, was found in the theatre in Caesarea Philippi, but has been moved to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.



Pontius Pilate Inscription (Israel Museum)

To the Divine Augusti [this] Tiberieum
...Pontius Pilate
...prefect of Judea
...has dedicated [this]

Translation of Pilate Inscription



Area where Inscription was found

57

John 18:33-38

Where Pilate Inscription was Found

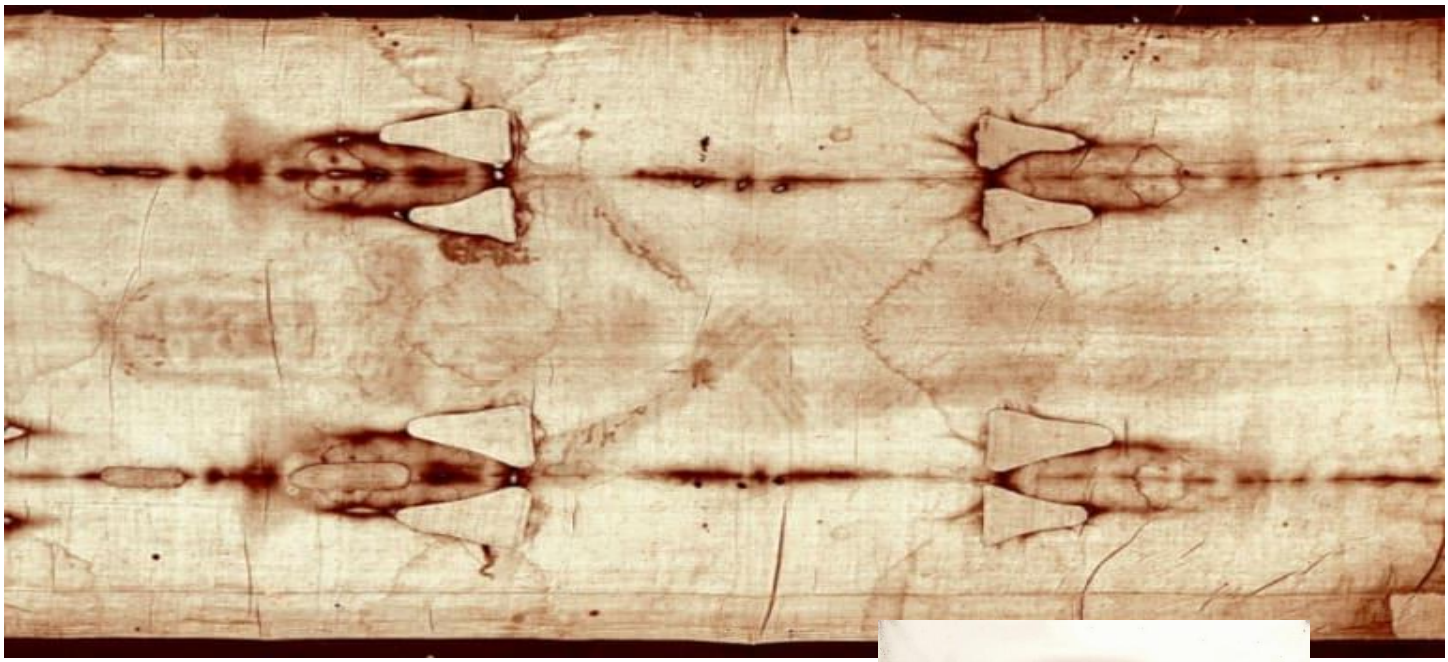
Caesarea Maritima, Israel

58. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST – THE SHROUD OF TURIN

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Turin, Italy. Google Earth Coordinates: 45° 4' 23.95" N, 7° 41' 7.57" E

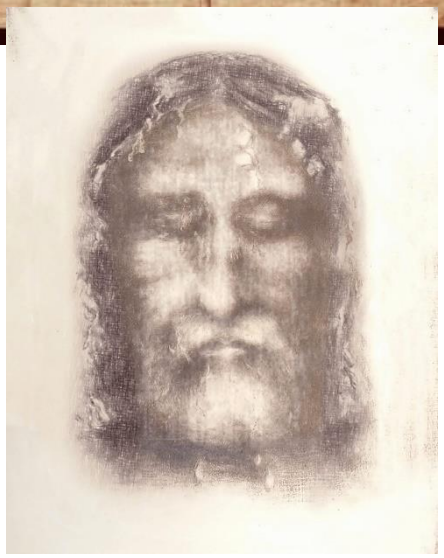
Now when the evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathaea, named Joseph, who himself was also Jesus' disciple. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb which he had cut out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed. Matthew 27:57-60 (KJV 2016)

Matthew's gospel tells us that Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his tomb. John's gospel says that the body was wrapped in strips of linen with about a hundred pounds of spices. This means that there must have been a main linen cloth with one or more strips to bind the cloth. This is what we see with the Shroud of Turin – a large (4.4 x 1.1 m) cloth that bears the image of a crucified man. The image is impossible to reproduce and is likely the result of a burst of radiation that was emitted at the time of the resurrection. Although Carbon-14 testing shows it to be a medieval forgery from the 1300s, the Pray manuscript shows that it very likely dates to the 12th century. Matching stains on the shroud and the Sudarium of Oveido show that it can be possibly dated to the 6th century. Pollen grains on the shroud from plants that grow in Palestine put the shroud in Israel. Dirt particles in the Shroud were analyzed and determined to contain calcium and the mineral specifically was concluded to be travertine aragonite limestone, which is the , which is the element that is in As well, And if it was in Israel, and was on the same body as the Sudarium of Oveido, it is very likely the burial cloth of Jesus of Nazareth..



The Shroud of Turin, the Possible Burial Cloth of Jesus Christ

The Cathedral of St. John in Turin, Italy



The Image of the Crucified Man

58

John 17:16-18

The Shroud in The Cathedral of St. John

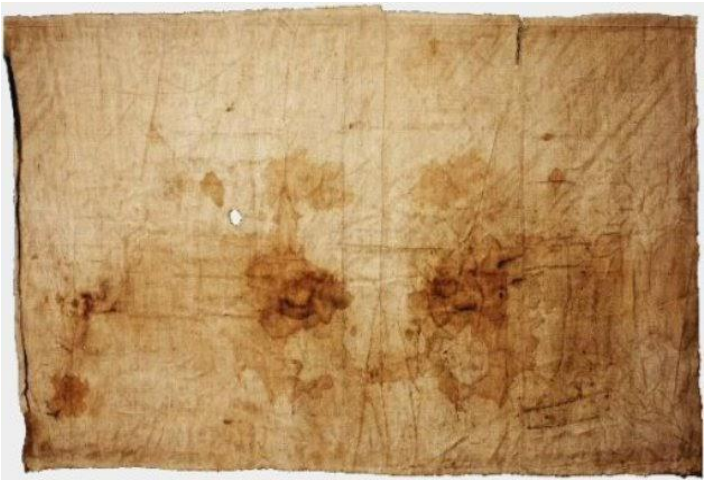
Turin, Italy

59. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE SUFFERING OF JESUS CHRIST – THE SUDARIUM OF OVEIDO

Oveido Cathedral, Oveido, Spain. Google Earth Coordinates: 43° 21' 45.3" N, 5° 50' 35.09" W

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. John 20:6-7 (KJV 2016)

A special but ancient cloth measures 33 x 21 inches and is kept in the Cathedral of San Salvador, Oviedo, Spain. The sudarium of Oveido is an ancient cloth that is reportedly the same cloth used 20 centuries ago to cover the head of Jesus. A careful investigation of the Biblical account of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus shows that there were the cloths that covered the body of Jesus and another "handkerchief" that was around Jesus' head. This is called a sudarium and would have collected blood (alive and after death) and pulmonary fluid after the death of Jesus. Death by crucifixion was actually a gruesome thing to behold. The victim would suffocate and the fluid built up in the lungs would ooze out of the nose. Isaiah foretold that the suffering Messiah's face would be "marred more than any man". In response, a cloth had been lovingly placed around the head of Jesus post-mortem. This cloth was then placed next to the burial cloths in the tomb. The pilgrim Antoninus of Piacenza wrote in 570 AD that the cloth was kept in a cave near Jerusalem. Then in the year 614 AD the Sudarium was smuggled out of Jerusalem during the Persian conquests and brought to Spain where it has been ever since. In the year 840 AD King Alfonso II of Asturias built a chapel and an ark to hold the precious cloth. Interestingly there is a blood stain on the Sudarium which perfectly matches the blood stain on the Shroud of Turin and the blood types are both AB. The cloth is displayed to the public only 3 times a year, one being on Good Friday.



The Sudarium of Oveido

The Ark that contains the Sudarium

The Sudarium is within the Ark, within the Cathedral of Oveido, in Oveido, Spain

59

John 20:6-7

The Sudarium in Oveido Cathedral

Oveido, Spain

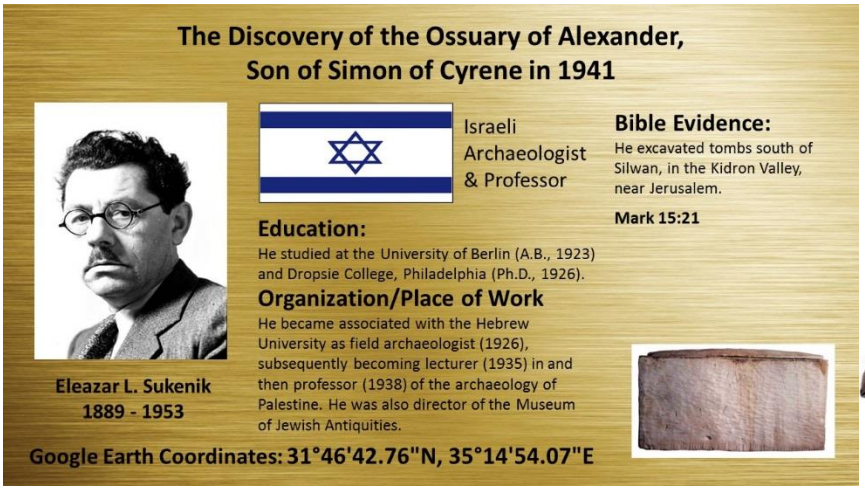
60. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR ALEXANDER SON OF SIMON OF CYRENE

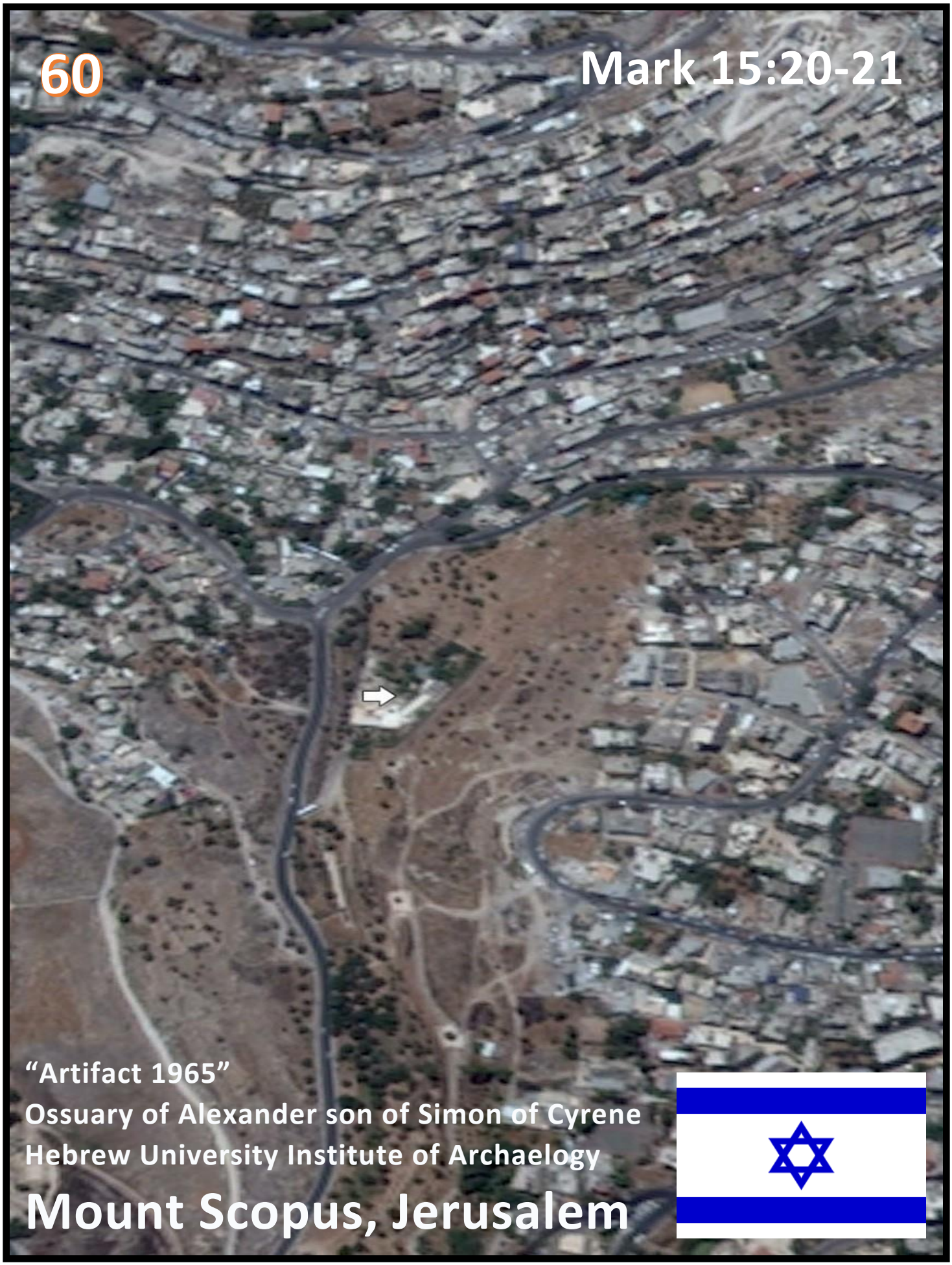
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mount Scopus Campus, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°47'35.03"N, 35°14'34.68"E

And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him. Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to carry His cross. Mark 15:20-21 (KJV 2016)

In 1941, Israeli archaeologists Eleazar Sukenik and Nahman Avigad found an ossuary along with 10 other ossuaries in a first century tomb in the Kidron valley, south of the village of Silwan. On the side of the ossuary it reads: "Alexander, son of Simon" (The inscription of SIMONALE above was a mistake and so underneath it was written: ALEXANDER SON OF SIMON beneath it. So 2 names and the relationships are put together which match the above passage. However, as well, on the lid of the same ossuary we have another inscription: "Alexander QRNYT." This word QRNYT is a misspelling of the word QRNYH which means Cyrenian. So we have the ossuary of Alexander, son of Simon, from Cyrene. This means that this is almost certainly the ossuary of the son of the man who carried the cross of Jesus. The "Alexander (son) of Simon" ossuary resides in the collection of Hebrew University's Institute of Archaeology located on Mt. Scopus in Jerusalem. Catalogued as Inventory No. 1965, this intriguing artifact has been loaned in the past for exhibition but is unfortunately not on regular public display.

The Inscription Reads: Alexander son of Simon



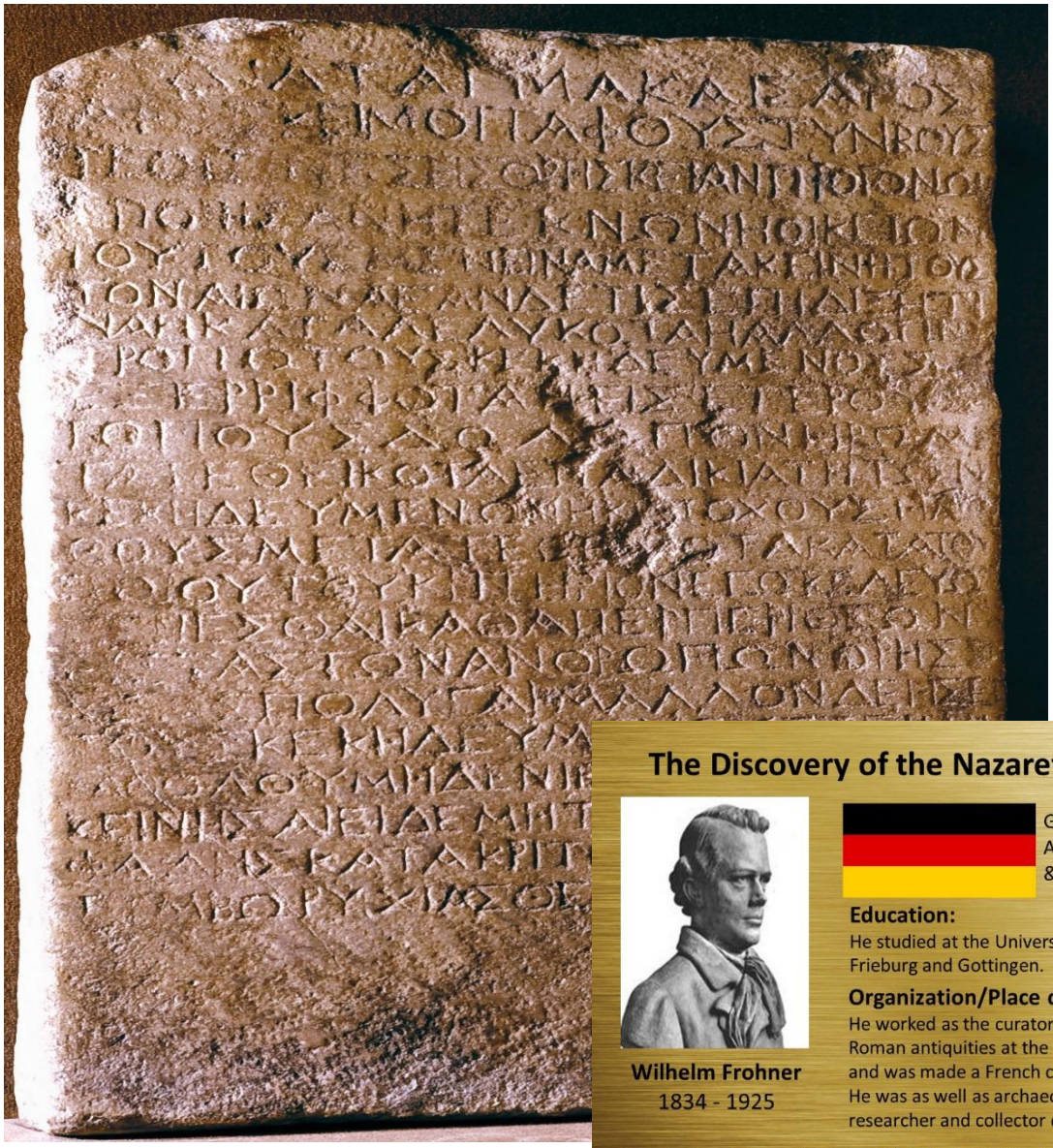

60
Mark 15:20-21
“Artifact 1965”
Ossuary of Alexander son of Simon of Cyrene
Hebrew University Institute of Archaelogy
Mount Scopus, Jerusalem

61. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF THE STORY MADE UP THAT THE DISCIPLES STOLE JESUS' BODY

The Louvre, Paris, France. Google Earth Coordinates: 48°51'37.06"N, 2°20'17.97"E

Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city, and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they had assembled with the elders and took counsel, they gave a large amount of money to the soldiers, saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will persuade him and protect you." So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day. Matthew 28:11-15 (KJV 2016)

This marble tablet was discovered in Nazareth and was acquired in 1878 by Wilhelm Frohner, a German archaeologist, then sent it to Paris. It is now on display at the Louvre, Paris. It is an edict written in Koine Greek from an unnamed Caesar that orders capital punishment for anyone who disturbs tombs and particularly those who move sepulcher sealing stones. This matches well with the post-resurrection account in the gospels. What is even more interesting is that it was reportedly found in Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus. Based on epigraphy it is dated to the 1st half of the first century. As well, we read in the gospels that at the time of Jesus' death many holy people were raised from the dead and appeared in the city of Jerusalem (Matthew 27:52-53). The reports must have come all the way to the Emperor Tiberius. In recourse, there was an official edict from Caesar that no other graves would be disturbed. It is therefore, good evidence of the gospel account that the story commonly reported among the Jews after the resurrection was that Jesus' disciples stole the body of Jesus while the guards slept.



The Nazareth Inscription, Louvre, Paris

EDICT OF CAESAR:
"…whoever ….has in any manner extracted those who have been buried, or has moved with wicked intent those who have been buried to other places, committing a crime against them, or has moved sepulcher-sealing stones…I wish that [violator] to suffer capital punishment under the title of tomb-breaker."

The Discovery of the Nazareth Inscription in 1878

Wilhelm Frohner
1834 - 1925

German Archaeologist & Curator

Education:
He studied at the Universities of Bonn, Frieburg and Gottingen.

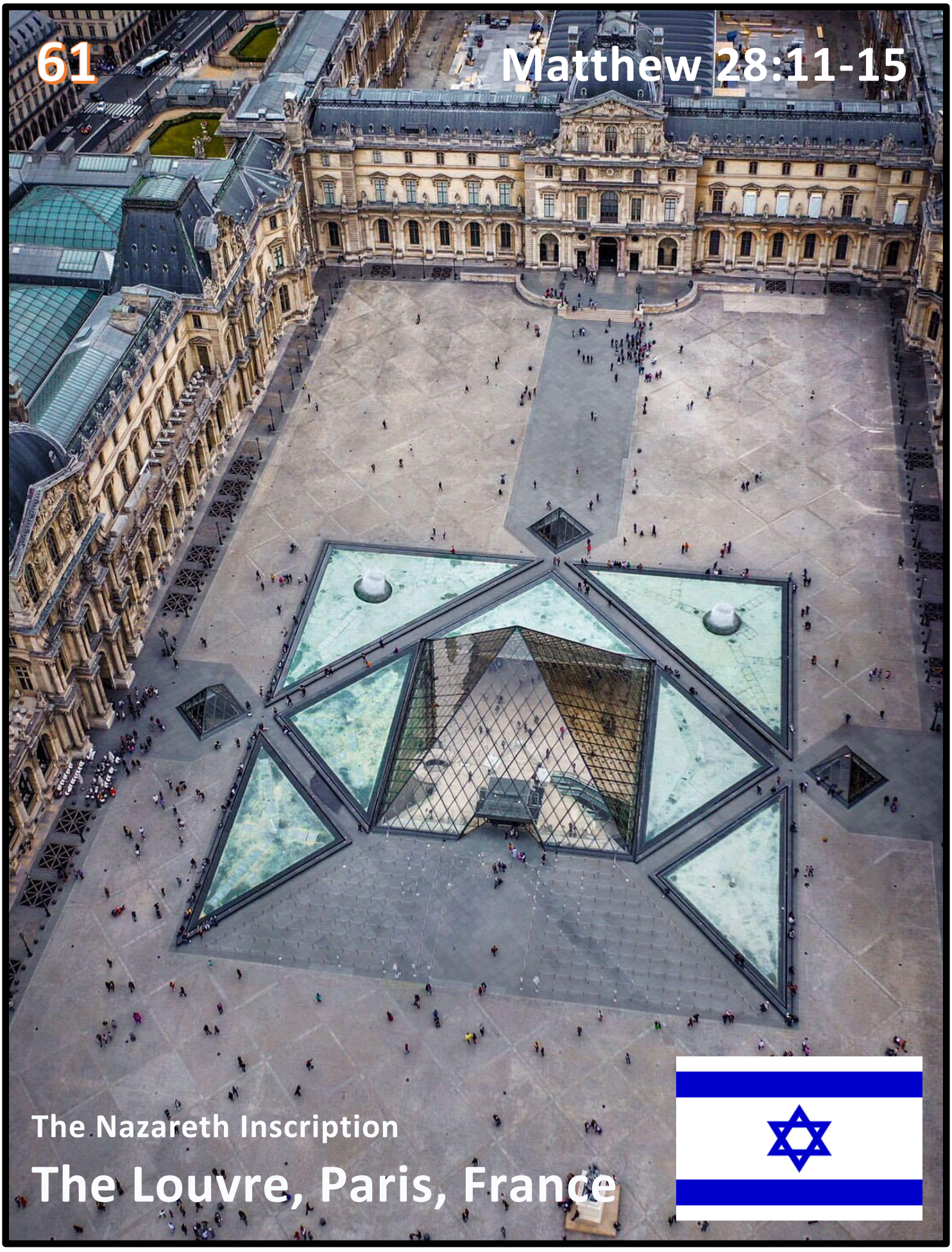
Organization/Place of Work
He worked as the curator of Greek and Roman antiquities at the Louvre in Paris and was made a French citizen in 1866. He was as well as archaeological researcher and collector of antiquities.

Bible Evidence:
Matthew 28:11-15

He received the Nazareth inscription from a dealer from Nazareth but the location of discovery is not known. The inscription was probably made in 41 AD by Emperor Claudius.

The Nazareth Inscription

Google Earth Coordinates: 32°29'45.68"N, 34°53'27.49"E


61
Matthew 28:11-15
The Nazareth Inscription
The Louvre, Paris, France

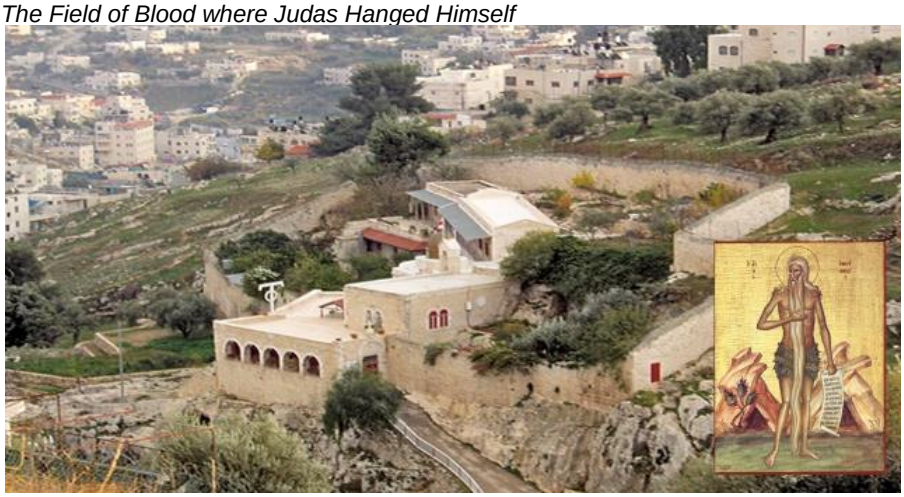
62. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR WHERE AKELDAMA IS LOCATED

Gai Ben Hinnom, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'5.80"N, 35°13'59.55"E

"Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; because he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry." (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is to say, The Field of Blood. Acts 1:16-19 (KJV 2016)

The soil in this area is composed of rich clay and was used in the past by potters and thus was also called the Potter's field as in Matthew 27:10. The clay also has a strong red color, thus it was also called the Field of Blood. This is the place where Judas hanged himself, his body decomposed and fell to the ground spilling his intestines. It was called field of blood since the "blood money", which was used to pay Judas to betray Jesus, was used to buy the field, and it was at this place where Judas' blood spilled on the ground. In 1874 the Orthodox Church built the Monastery of St. Onuphrius, over the site of several tombs which date from the first century which can be seen inside. According to 16th century tradition, this was also the place where the Apostles fled to after Jesus' arrest in Gethsemane. Interestingly, this field is located in the cursed Hinnom Valley, where child sacrifice occurred. God promised that He would bring evil upon this place in Jeremiah 19:3.

The Field of Blood where Judas Hanged Himself



Orthodox Church of St. Onuphrius (St. Onuphrius is depicted here)

Burial caves at Akeldama

62

Acts 1:16-19

Akeldama, the Field of Blood

Gai Ben Hinnom, Jerusalem, Israel

63. THIS IS WHERE JESUS MET HIS DISCIPLES AFTER RESURRECTION AND RESTORED PETER

Tabgha, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°52'18.68"N, 35°33'1.44"E

After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself: Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus...Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught." Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?" Knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was risen from the dead. John 21:1-4; 9-14 (KJV 2016)

The church of the Primacy of St. Peter, built by the Franciscans in 1933 and made of black basalt, is on the site where early Christians believe Jesus said to Peter "Take care of my sheep" and reinstated him as the foremost of the apostles. This is located in Tabgha, Israel, and is built on 4th century church ruins. In the 9th century this place was called the "Place of the coals" to commemorate where Jesus had a fire of coals near this location. Jesus appeared to His disciples here in His resurrected body and thus the white limestone outcropping has a sign placed by the Franciscans: "This is a holy ground."

Church of the Primacy of Peter, Tabgha, Galilee, Israel

Mensa Christi, where Jesus cooked and ate fish with His disciples

In this tranquil area Jesus met with His disciples in Galilee following His resurrection.

Fourth Century church ruins are here at this site where Jesus met with His disciples, thus, is called "Holy Ground"

63

John 21:1-14

Place where Jesus reinstated Peter

Tabgha, Galilee, Israel

64. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE SITE OF JESUS' ASCENSION INTO HEAVEN

Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'44.04"N, 35°14'42.42"E

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and also in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white clothing, who also said, "You men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who is taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. Acts 1:6-12 (KJV 2016)

The prophet Zechariah foretold "I For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," The Lord came to be born as a Baby on earth. Then the prophet Hosea foretold that: "I will return again to my place." The Lord would ascend back to His place. Jesus Christ fulfilled both of these prophecies. For the first three centuries of the early persecuted church, the ascension of Jesus was celebrated in a cave part way up the mountain for safety reasons. However, by the late 4th century, Queen Helena had a circular memorial chapel built at the summit of the Mount of Olives over the site where Jesus ascended. In 384, the Spanish pilgrim Lady Egeria reported visiting the chapel of the ascension where Jesus ascended to heaven 40 days after His resurrection. Unfortunately, this chapel was destroyed in 614 AD by the Persians. Then it was rebuilt but then destroyed again during the conquest in the 10th century. Then the chapel was again rebuilt by the Crusaders in the 12th Century upon the ruins of the Byzantine chapel. This octagonal chapel originally had no roof and was surrounded by pillars. In 1187 Saladin converted this chapel into a mosque complete with a mihrab, showing the direction of Islamic prayer. Since then, although the land is under Islamic jurisdiction, Christians are permitted to come and worship here. In 1835 the walls were filled in and a domed roof added. Inside the chapel is a rock where tradition holds Jesus left His right footprint in the stone as He ascended into heaven bodily. Christians come and worship their risen and ascended Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ of Nazareth in this place.

The Ascension Edicule

The place believed by early Christians where Jesus ascended to heaven

The stone upon which it is believed Jesus left his footprint

Although the area is walled in and on the grounds of a mosque, Christians are still permitted to come and worship there.

64

Acts 1:6-12

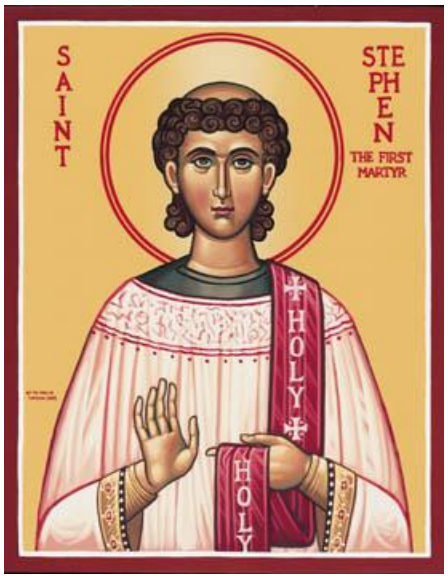
The Place of the Ascension of Jesus Christ

Mount of Olives, Jerusalem

65. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE PLACE OF MARTYRDOM OF ST. STEPHEN

St. Stephen's Basilica, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°47'4.78"N, 35°13'46.06"E

When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up gazing into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, "Behold! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" Then they shouted out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and threw him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and shouted out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep. Acts 7:54-60 (KJV 2016)

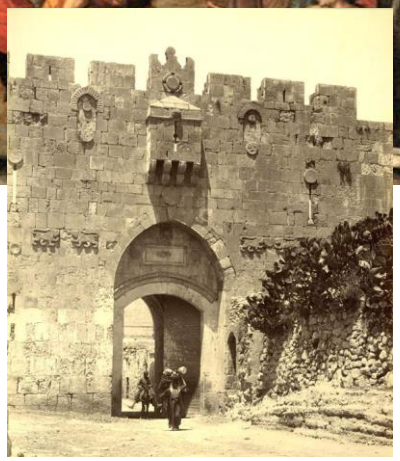


St. Stephen was a Hellenist Jew who had a Greek name which means "wreath" or "crowned". He was a deacon who was chosen to minister to the Greek-speaking Christian widows who were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. He was falsely accused of blasphemy against Moses and the law and that he said that Jesus of Nazareth would destroy the holy place, the temple, and change the customs that Moses handed down. He was brought to the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem where he made his lengthy defence. He began with the life of Abraham and went through the history of Israel, concluding with the prophets and accused the religious leaders of always resisting the Holy Spirit. Upon hearing this, the leaders condemned him to death, taking him outside the city and stoned him. French Archaeologists Louis-Hugues Vincent and Felix-Marie Abel placed the site of the stoning to be to the North of the city. At this site, the Empress Eudocia built a structure at the site, where she was later buried. The chapel was destroyed by the Persians in 614 AD. Then in 638 AD a small church was built by St. Sophronius, was enlarged by the crusaders, but then destroyed. In the 19th Century, French Dominicans built this church at the site which was completed in 1900. The Northern Gate, now called the Lion's Gate, was called St. Stephen's Gate many years ago, owing to the tradition that St. Stephen was martyred outside the gate. If the place is also Golgotha, where Jesus Christ was crucified, it would make sense that this place was a place of execution: crucifixion by the Romans and stoning by the Jews

Traditional Site of St. Stephen's Martyrdom

The Stoning of St. Stephen

Coin of the Empress Eudocia



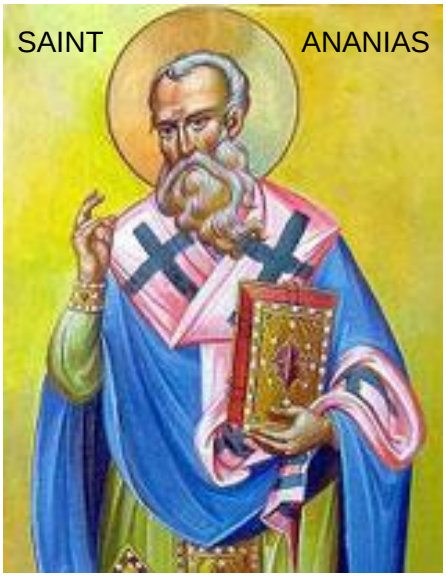
St. Stephen's Gate, Jerusalem

65
N
Acts 1:6-12
The Place of Martyrdom of St. Stephen
Jerusalem, Israel

66. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE HOUSE OF ANANIAS IN DAMASCUS

House of Ananias, Damascus, Syria. Google Earth Coordinates: 33°30'41.32"N, 36°19'2.53"E

Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And he was without sight for three days, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Behold, I am here, Lord." So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, because behold, he is praying. And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight." Acts 9:8-12. (KJV 2016)

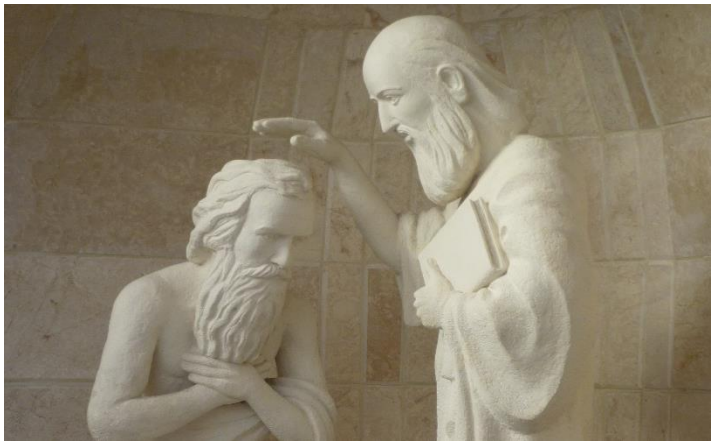


Straight Street is the main street that runs East-West across the city of Damascus, one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities. At the end of the street lies the Home of Ananias. In 1921, Eustache de Lorey, a French Archaeologist, excavated beneath the home of Ananias in Damascus. He found remains of a Byzantine church from the 5th or 6th centuries. He also found a piece of an altar dedicated to a pagan god from the 2nd or 3rd Centuries. In the early 2nd century, the Emperor Hadrian ordered that Pagan temples be placed over the main holy Christian sites to keep Christians away from this site and to erase their memory. This is evidence that this was the very place where Ananias was praying, heard God, then brought Saul back to his house to baptize him. Inside the house are 2 rooms with pictures that depict scenes from the life of St. Paul.

Straight Street Damascus

The House of Ananias, Damascus

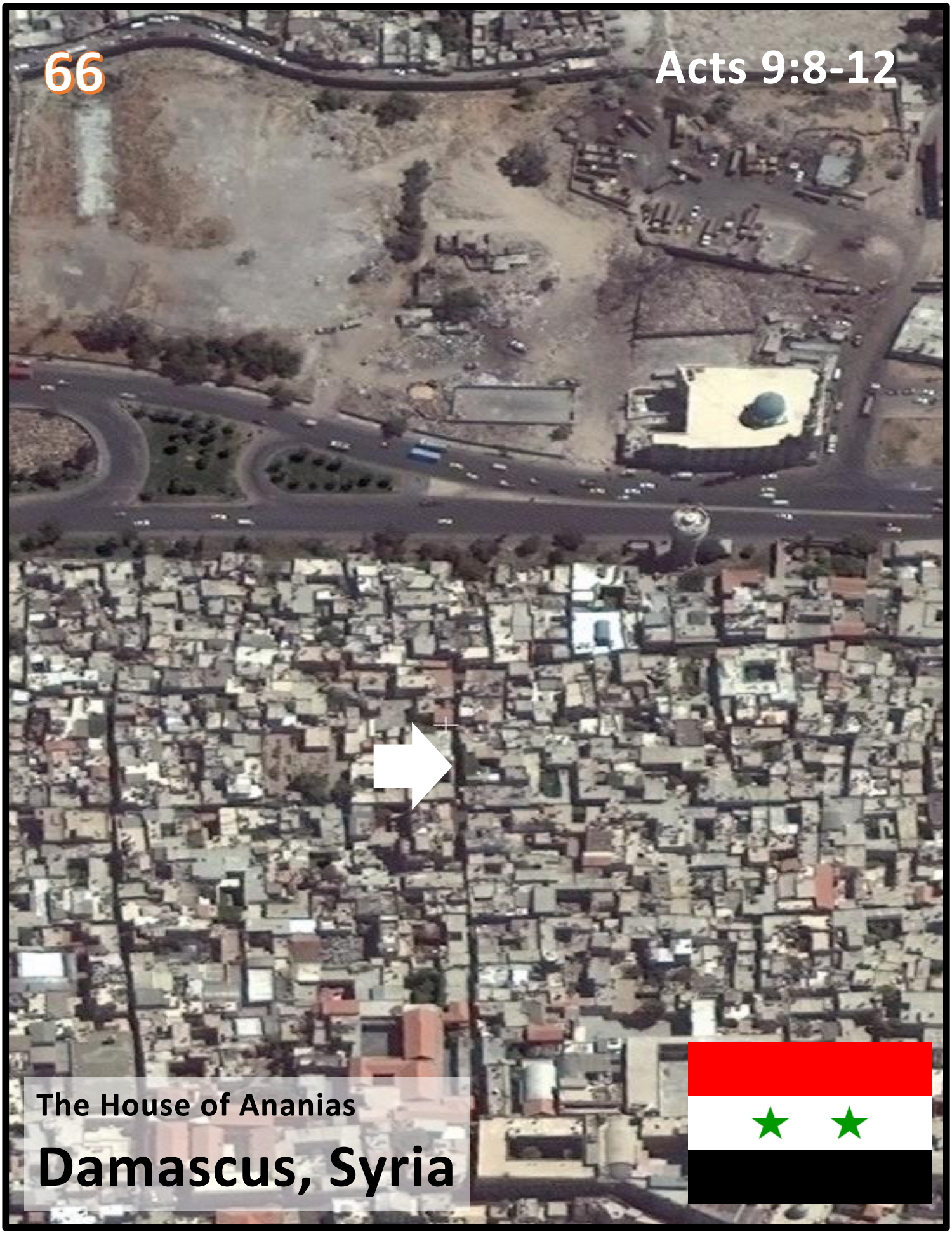
Chapel of St. Ananias, Damascus



Statue of Saul being Baptised by Ananias

66

Acts 9:8-12



The House of Ananias

Damascus, Syria

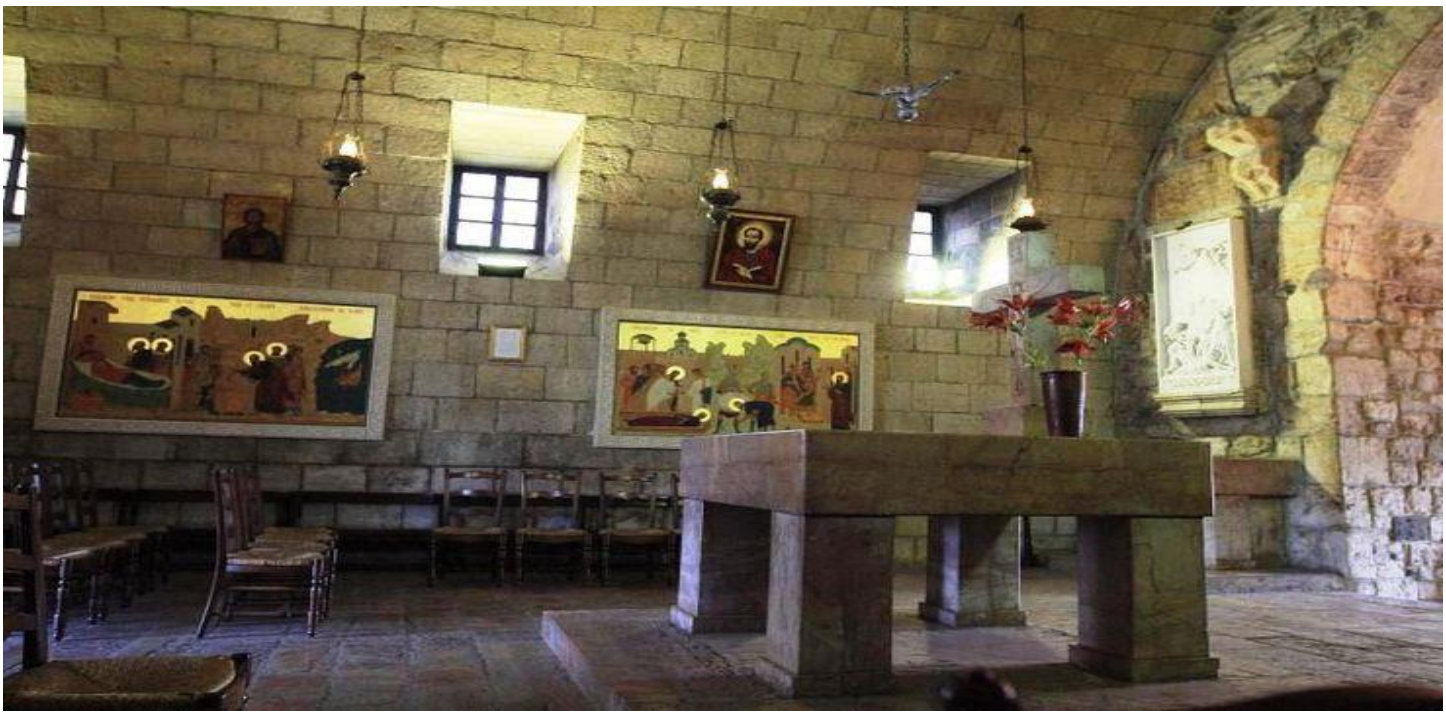
67. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE KISAN GATE IN DAMASCUS

The Bab Kisan, Damascus, Syria. Google Earth Coordinates: 33°30'23.79"N, 36°18'55.92"E

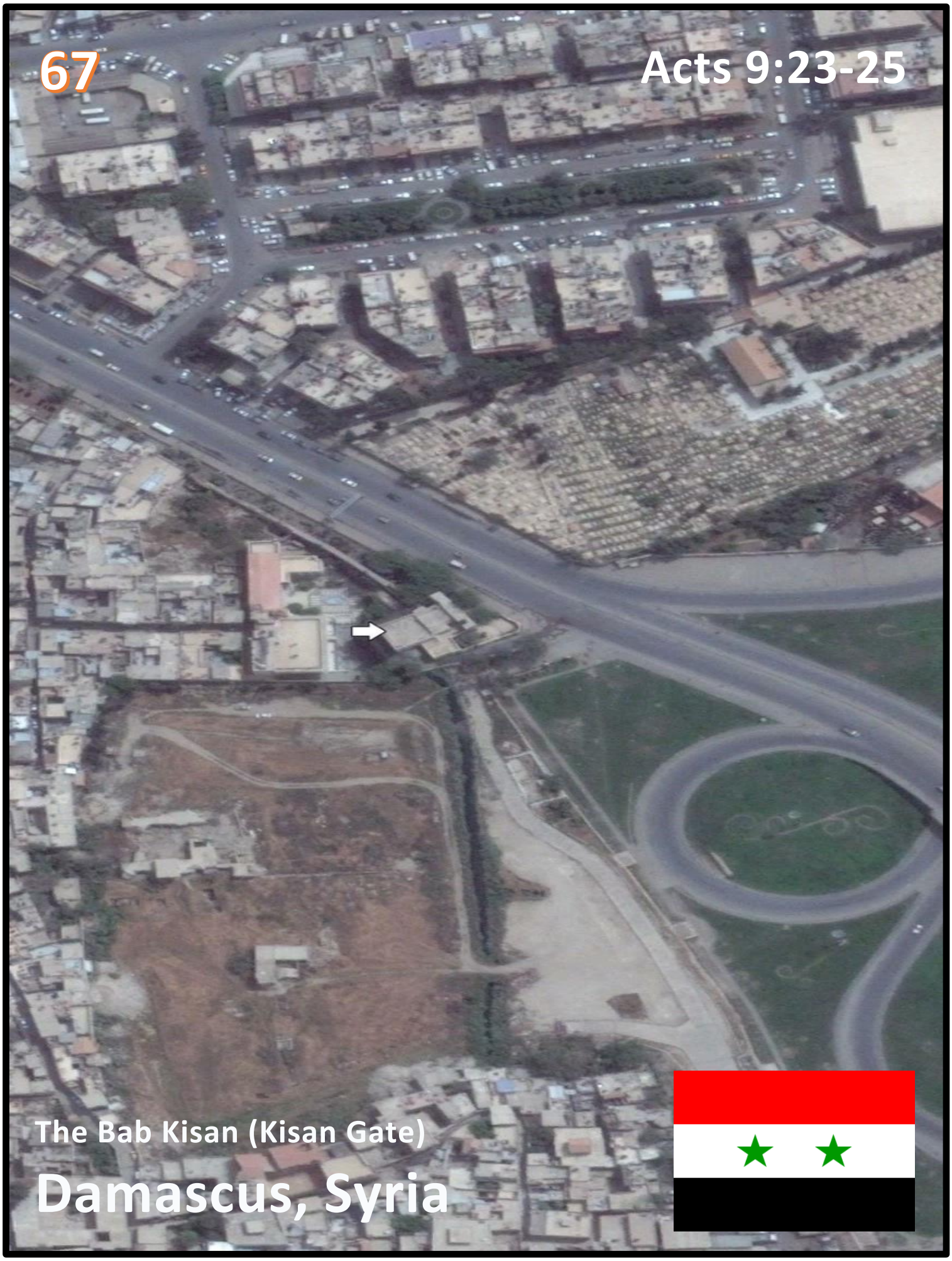
Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him. But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him. Then the disciples took him and let him down by the wall in a basket. Acts 9:23-25 (KJV 2016)

Nearby to the house of Ananias is the Bab Kisan, one of the seven ancient city gates in Damascus, built in the Roman era and was dedicated to Saturn. It was near this gate in the city wall where it is believed the new converted Paul was let down by ropes and basket to escape capture.

The Bab Kisan, Damascus



The Chapel within the Bab Kisan, Damascus

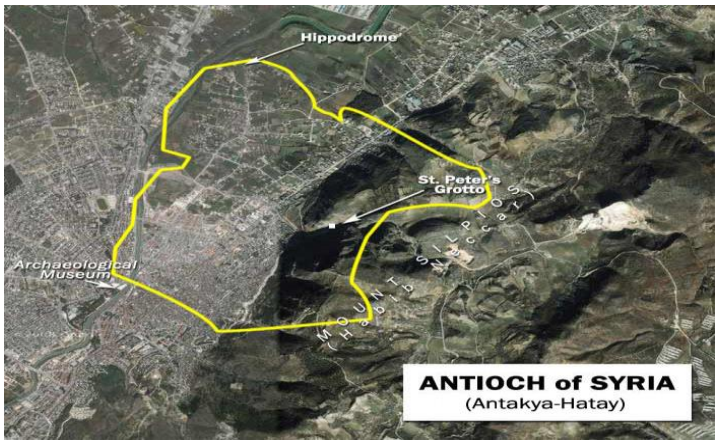

67
Acts 9:23-25
The Bab Kisan (Kisan Gate)
Damascus, Syria

68. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR A FIRST CENTURY CAVE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH

Antakya, Hatay Province, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 36°12'32.73"N, 36°10'42.02"E

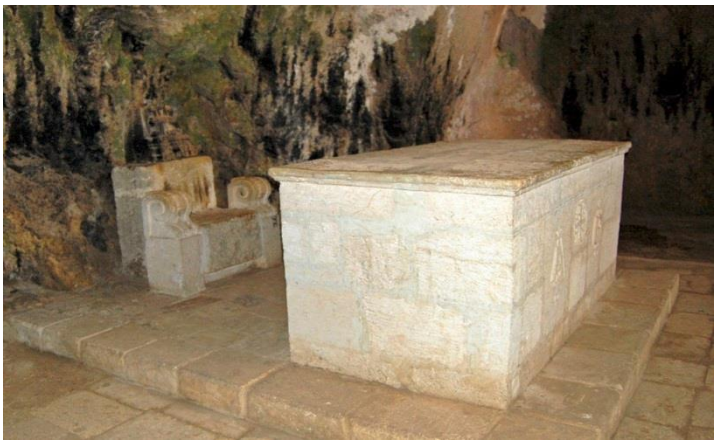
Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek for Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they assembled with the church and taught many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. Acts 11:25-26 (KJV 2016)

The prophet Isaiah foretold: The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, And all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the LORD will name (Isaiah 62:2). The Name of the Lord Jesus was becoming known throughout the Roman world and beyond in fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. In Antioch they were called by a new name now, Christians. By tradition, this is the site where Paul went to teach and strengthen the disciples for a whole year. It is an ancient cave church, with a stone facade built by the Crusaders in 1100, and is carved out of Mount Starius. The oldest surviving parts of the cave church date from the 4th or 5th century but were probably in use in the first Century. There are floor mosaics and frescoes to the right side of the altar. Every year thousands of people go to see this place - one of the oldest churches in the world.



Exterior of the Church of St. Peter with 12th century facade

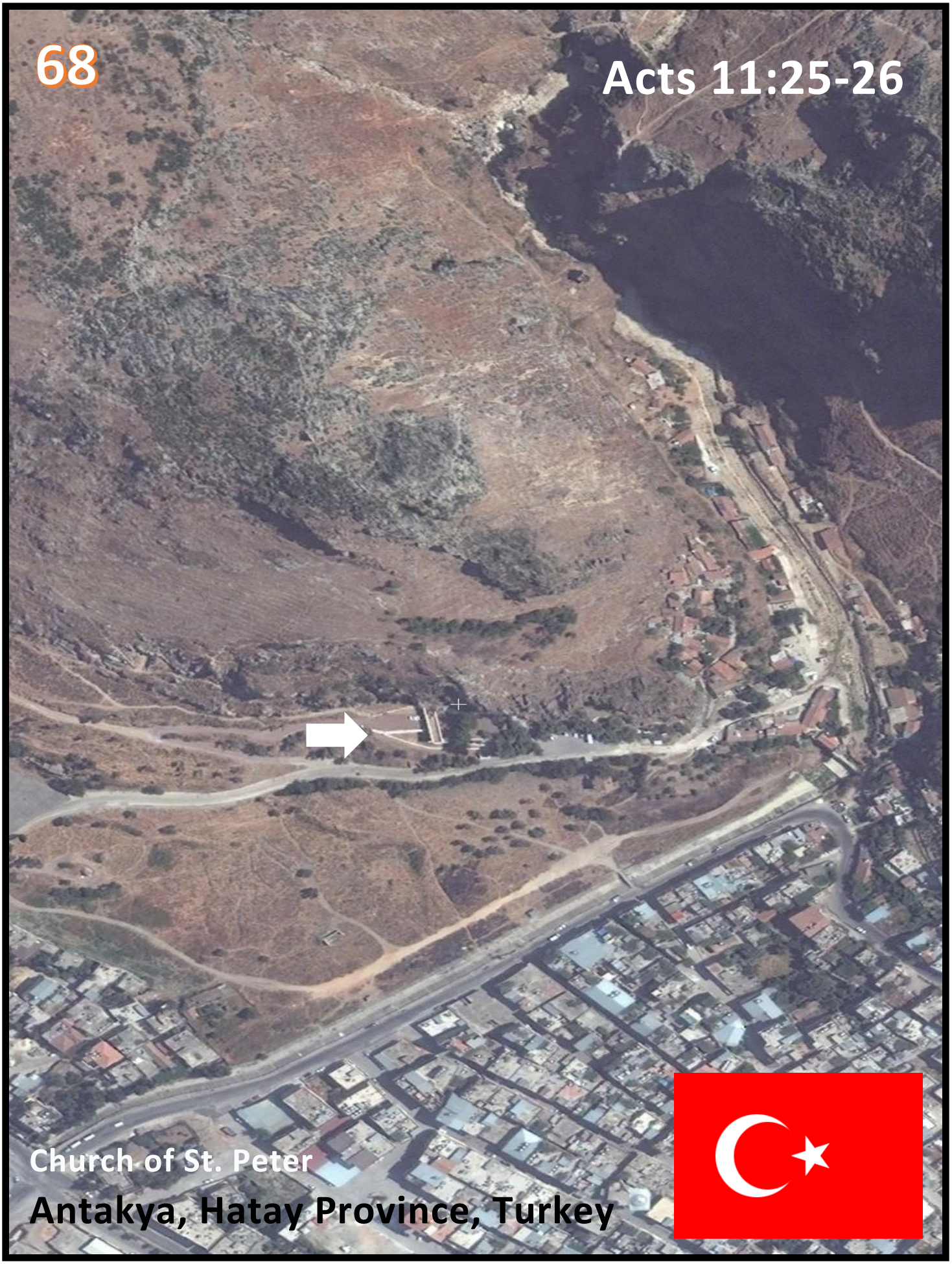
Syrian Christians are seriously persecuted today



Interior of the church showing ancient stonework

68

Acts 11:25-26



Church of St. Peter

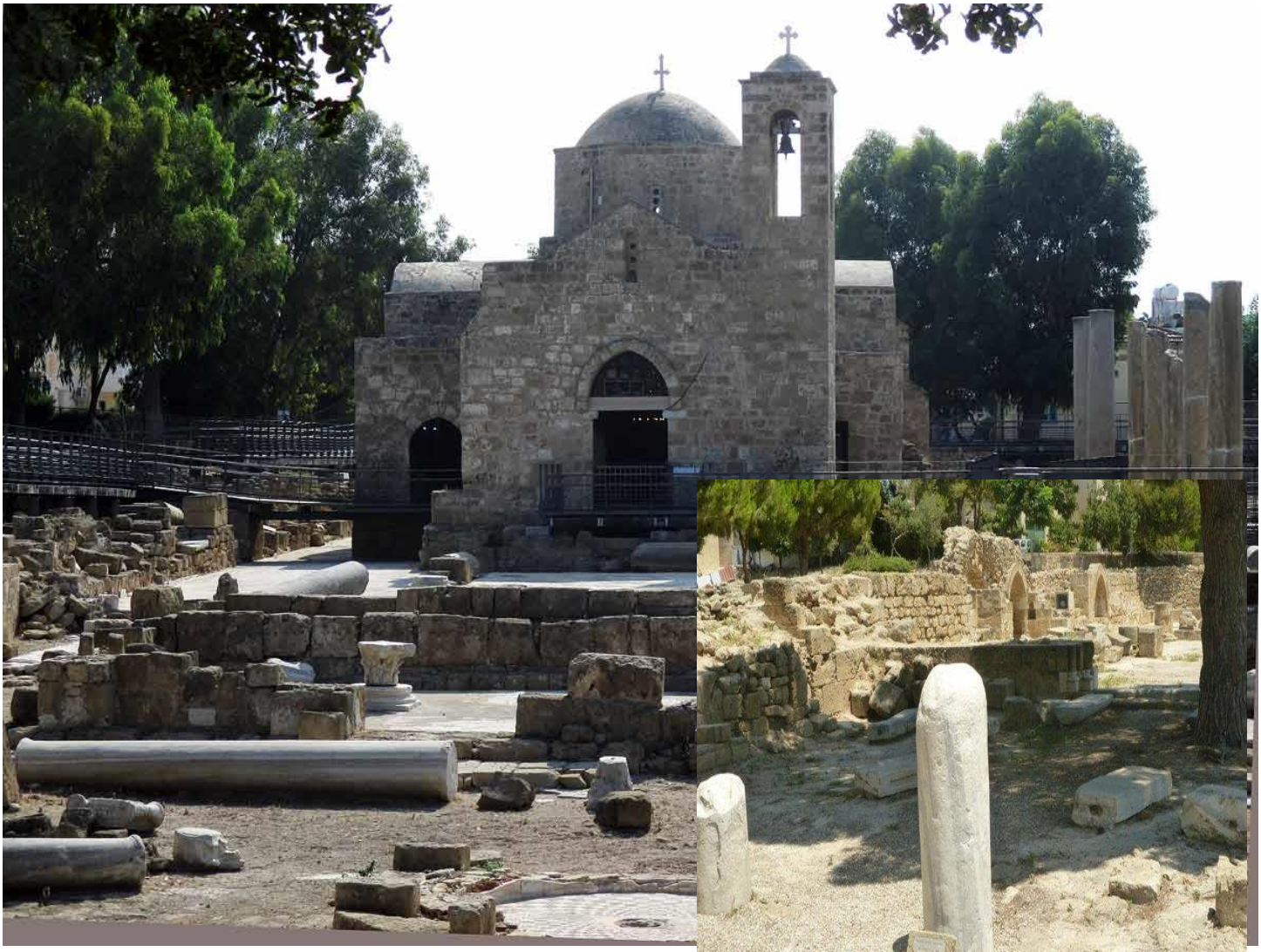
Antakya, Hatay Province, Turkey

69. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR PAUL BEFORE SERGIUS PAULUS IN CYPRUS

Panagia Chrysopolitissa Basilica, Paphos, Cyprus. Google Earth Coordinates: 35° 8'28.66"N, 32°48'44.07"E

So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they departed to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as their assistant. Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar Jesus, who was with the proconsul of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. Acts 13:4-7 (KJV 2016)

The Prophet Isaiah foretold the time when foreign countries would see God's glory. He wrote: Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. The Apostle Paul and Barnabas fulfilled this prophecy and came to the Island of Cyprus to the city of Paphos where they encountered the Roman proconsul Sergius Paulus and his attendant Elymas the sorcerer. According to tradition Sergius Paulus commanded Paul to be tied to the column and beaten for preaching the message of Jesus. This pillar still stands today. In the 4th century a church was built around the pillar called the Panagia Chrysopolitissa Basilica marking the place where St. Paul preached and Sergius Paulus was converted. This makes Cyprus the very first country to be governed by a Christian – the Light had truly come to Cyprus.



This Ayia Kyriaki Chrysopolitissa Church was built around 1500 AD on the site of an older church that dates back from the first century. This church is known as the "Church by St. Paul's Pillar".

The Pillar of St. Paul, where Paul was chained and beaten according to tradtition

69

Acts 13:4-7

Church by the Pillar of St. Paul

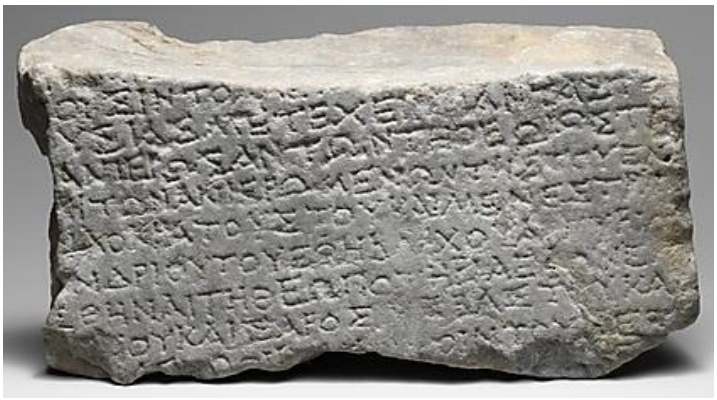
Paphos, Cyprus

70. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR SERGIUS PAULUS, CONVERT AND PROCONSUL OF CYPRUS

Soli, Cyprus. Google Earth Coordinates: 35° 8'28.66"N, 32°48'44.07"E

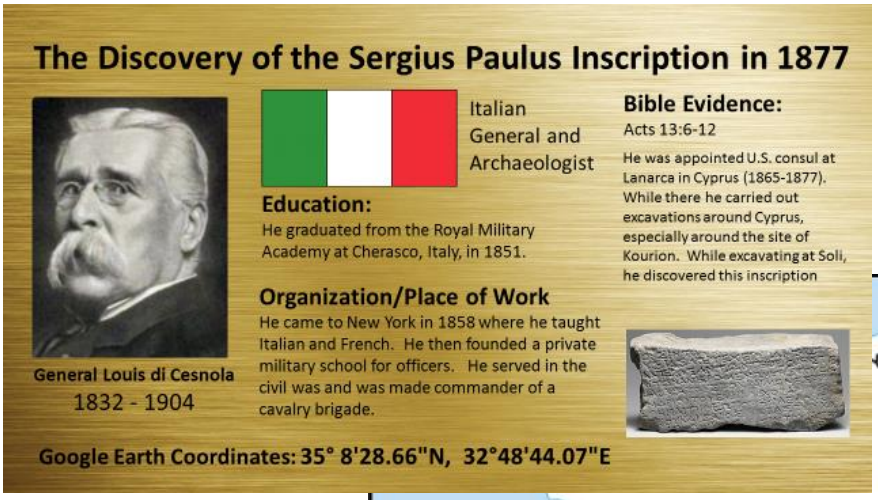
So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they departed to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as their assistant. Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar Jesus, who was with the proconsul of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. Acts 13:4-7 (KJV 2016)

On Paul's first missionary journey with Barnabas, a native of Cyprus, they came to the ancient port city of Salamis then went to the town of Paphos. Paphos was the capital of Cyprus and from there the Proconsul Sergius Paulus governed Cyprus around 44 AD the time of Paul's visit. The Proconsul was a provincial governor who was appointed to serve for a year by the Roman senate. Evidence for Sergius Paulus was found in 1877 by General Louis di Cesnola, who was an Italian-born Colonel during the US Civil War. As he excavated he found an inscription in blue-gray marble found in the city of Soli, not far from Paphos, dated to 54 AD, with the name "Proconsul Paulus". This inscription is now located at the Metropolitan Museum in New York of which Cesnola became the first director.



The Sergius Paulus Inscription

Ruins of Soli, Cyprus, where inscription was found



70

Acts 13:4-7

Ruins of Ancient Soli

Soloi, Cyprus

71. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE SYNAGOGUE WHERE PAUL PREACHED IN PISIDIAN ANTIOCH

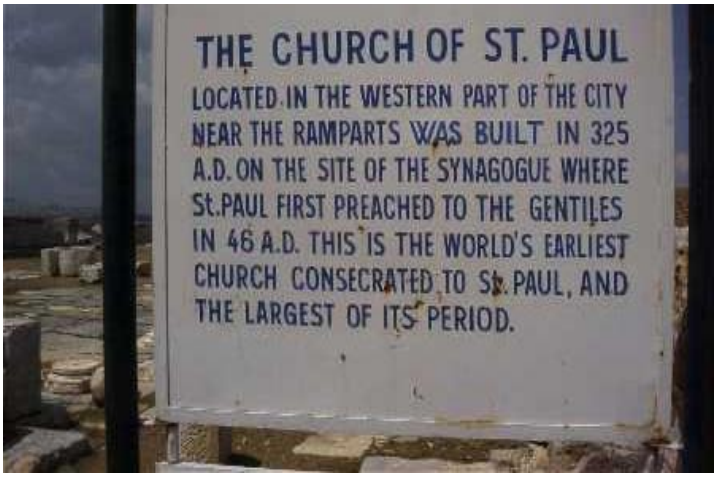
1 Km NE of Yalvac, Ispala, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 38°18'23.53"N, 31°11'14.57"E

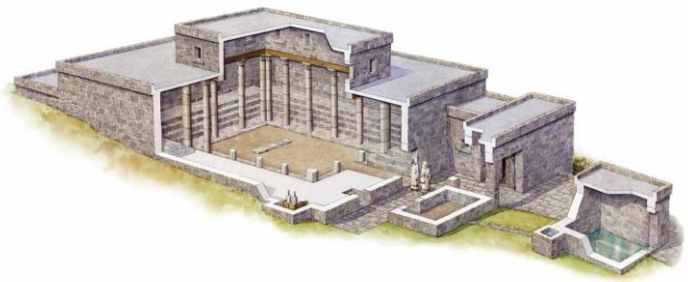
But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, "You men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on." Then Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said, "Men of Israel, and you who reverence God, pay attention: The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and lifted up the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He brought them out of it……And the next Sabbath day almost the entire city came together to hear the word of God. Acts 13:14-44 (KJV 2016)

Paul and Barnabas both came to Pisidian Antioch on Paul's First Missionary journey where they came and preached in the synagogue in approximately 46 AD. In 1833, British antiquarian and Chaplain Francis Arundell surveyed Pisidian Antioch and was the first person to define and study the city. He discovered the church of St. Paul, located in the western part of the city near the ramparts and was built in 325 AD on the site of the 1st century synagogue where St. Paul first preached to the Gentiles in 46 AD. It is one of the largest churches ever discovered in Asia Minor complete with an apse, a nave, two side aisles separated from the nave by 13 columns on each side and a mosaic floor which is still visible today.

4th Century Church of St. Paul in Pisidian Antioch

The Apse of the Church of St. Paul

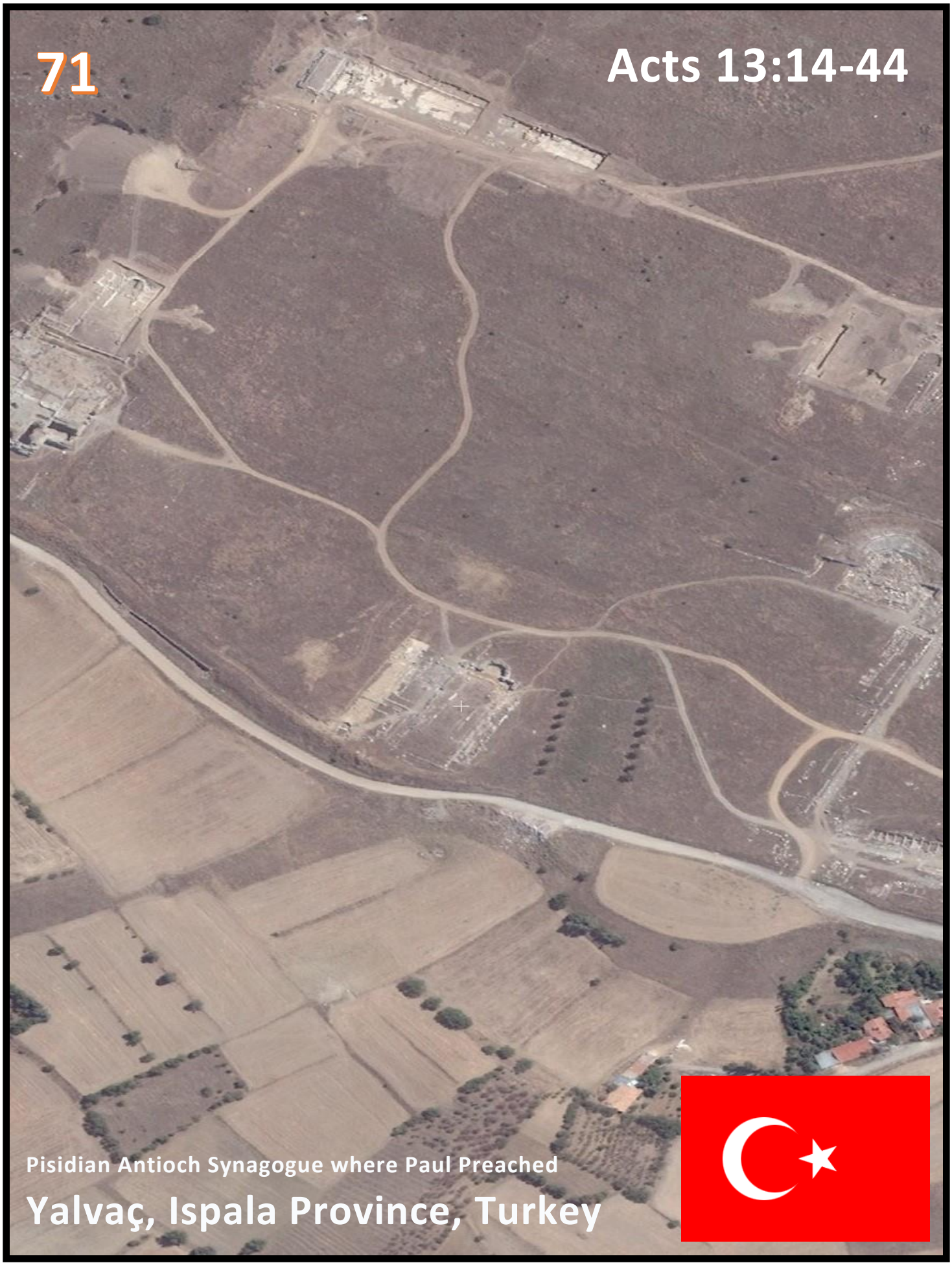




Reconstruction of the Synagogue in the first century

71

Acts 13:14-44



Pisidian Antioch Synagogue where Paul Preached

Yalvaç, Ispala Province, Turkey

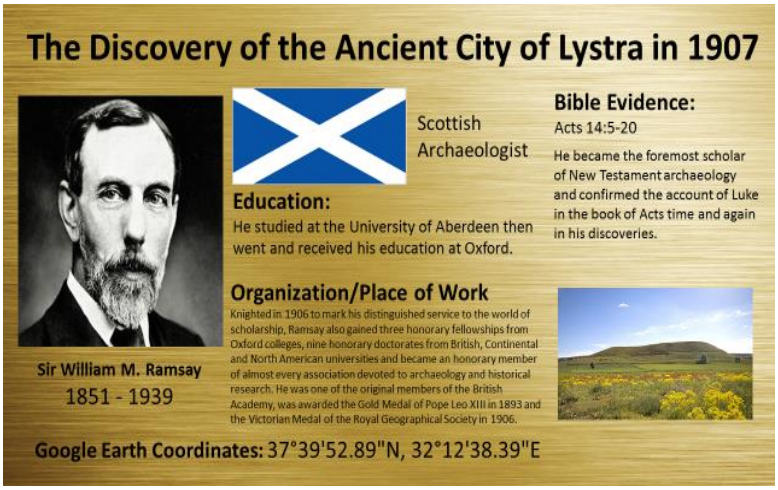
72. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR LYSTRA WHERE PAUL WAS STONED AND LEFT FOR DEAD

Gökyurt, Konya, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 37°39'52.89"N, 32°12'38.39"E

And when a violent attempt was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to abuse them, and to stone them, they were aware of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding region. And they preached the gospel there. And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man heard Paul speaking, who observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked. Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" ….. Then certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; who persuaded the people, and having stoned Paul, dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. Acts 14:5-20 (KJV 2016)

In 1907, Scottish Archaeologist Sir William Mitchell Ramsay discovered the ancient town of Lystra, the hometown of Saint Timothy. At the beginning of his career he was highly skeptical of the accounts in the book of Acts. "He therefore set out to put the writer of Acts on trial. He devoted his life to unearthing the ancient cities and documents of Asia Minor. After a lifetime of study, however, he concluded: 'Further study … showed that the book could bear the most minute scrutiny as an authority for the facts of the Aegean world, and that it was written with such judgment, skill, art and perception of truth as to be a model of historical statement'…, 'You may press the words of Luke in a degree beyond any other historian's and they stand the keenest scrutiny and the hardest treatment...' (The Bearing of Recent Discovery, p. 85, 89).

Lystra today is an unexcavated mound



Parts of the Ancient Ruins of Lystra

72
Acts 14:5-20
Where Paul was stoned in Lystra
Gökyurt, Konya, Turkey

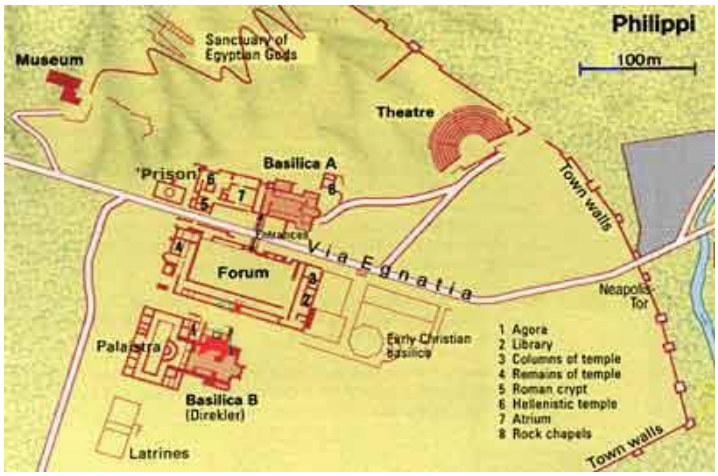
73. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE PLACE WHERE LYDIA WAS BAPTIZED NEAR PHILIPPI

On Krenides River, Near Ancient Philippi (Filipos) Kavala, Greece. Google Earth Coordinates: 41° 1'14.36"N, 24°16'34.35"E

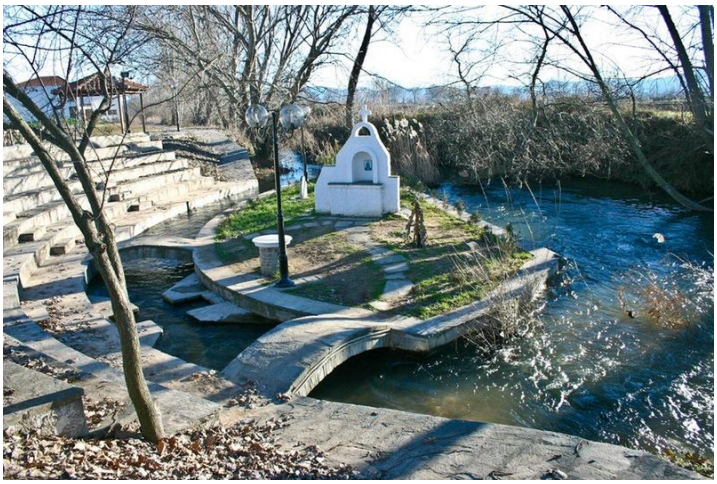
Therefore, untying from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia and a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days. And on the Sabbath we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things that were spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay there." So she persuaded us. Acts 16:11-15 (KJV 2016)

The prophet Malachi foretold "For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations," Says the LORD of hosts. The Name of the Lord Jesus was becoming known throughout the Roman world and beyond in fulfillment of Malachi's prophecy. In 49-50 AD Paul went on his second missionary journey with Silas and came to Macedonia. As there was no synagogue in Philippi, they went to a place of prayer out of the city by the Krenides River. As they were meeting, Paul and Silas met with Lydia, a seller of purple cloth, shared the gospel, she received Jesus Christ and was baptized. The location of Lydia's baptism is the Krenides River, outside the Philippi city limits. At this place is St. Lydia's Baptistry, a Greek Orthodox church, built in the early 1900s commemorates the spot on the river where the first European convert, a woman, was baptized.

Krenides River outside Philippi – The Place of Prayer



Ancient Philippi

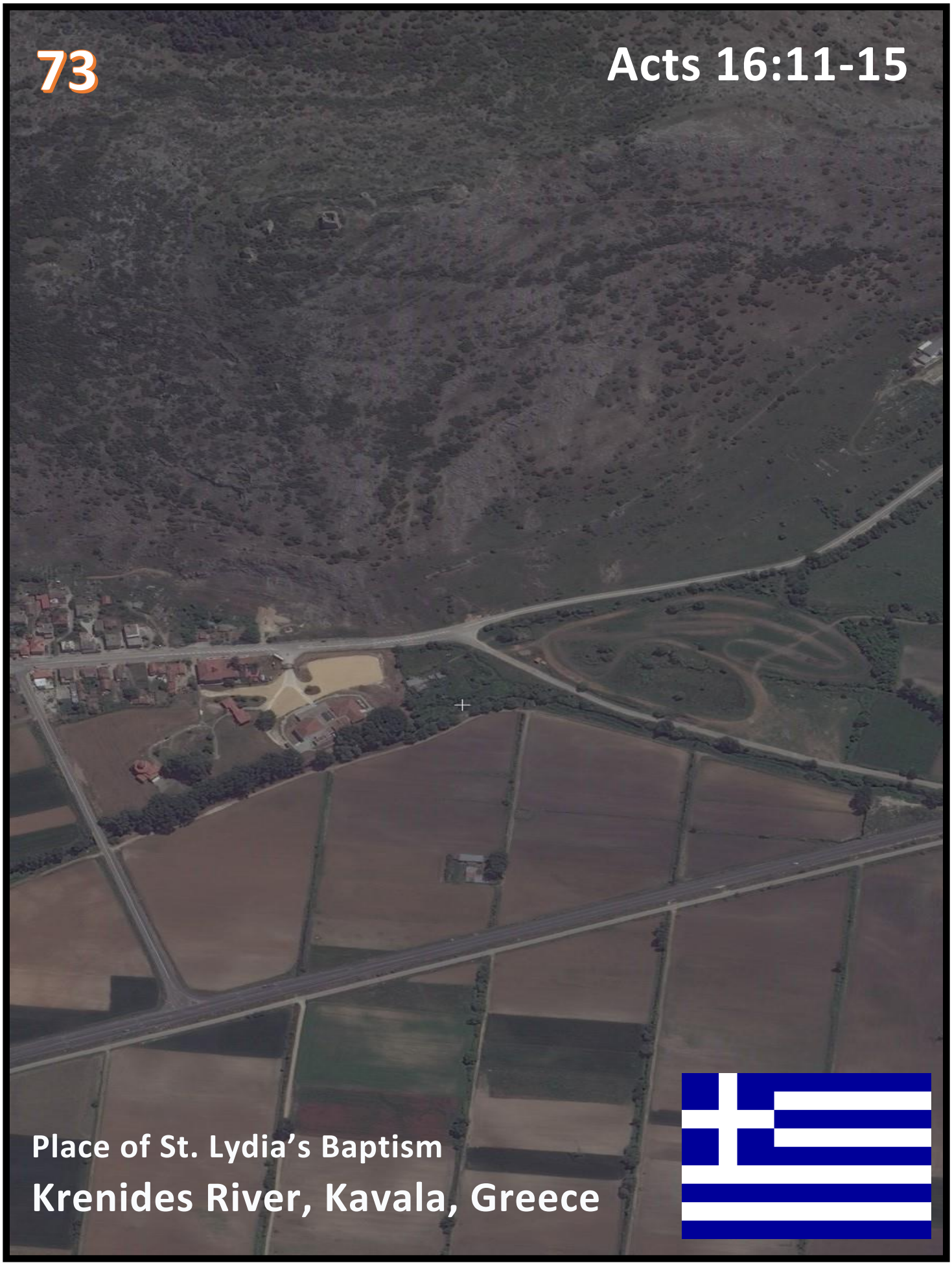


Modern Baptismal

St. Lydia's Baptistry

73

Acts 16:11-15



Place of St. Lydia's Baptism

Krenides River, Kavala, Greece

74. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE PRISON OF PAUL AND SILAS IN PHILIPPI

Ancient Philippi (Filipos) Kavala, Greece. Google Earth Coordinates: 41° 0'48.18"N, 24°17'1.40"E

But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, greatly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us to receive or to observe being Romans." Then the crowd rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to beat them. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such an order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing praises to God, and the prisoners listened to them. Then suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and would have killed himself. But Paul shouted with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, because we are all here." Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you and your household will be saved." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Acts 16:16-40 (KJV 2016)

The prophet David, King of Israel, wrote: Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles, And sing praises to Your name. This was fulfilled when Paul and Silas sang praise to God in the Philippi prison that day. The ancient city of Philippi was excavated and researched from 1914 to 1938 by the French School of Archaeology at Athens. Among their discoveries was the Marketplace of Philippi. This is where Paul and Silas were brought before the magistrates of Philippi. Then they were put in prison nearby. Archaeologists are unsure but this place may have been the site during the first century where Paul and Silas were placed in an inner prison and where an earthquake set them free.

The Marketplace [4] and Prison [3] in Ancient Philippi

Marketplace where Paul and Silas appeared before magistrates

Possible prison where Paul and Silas Jailed

Possible inner prison cell where Paul and Silas Jailed

74

Acts 16:16-40

Prison of St. Paul and Silas

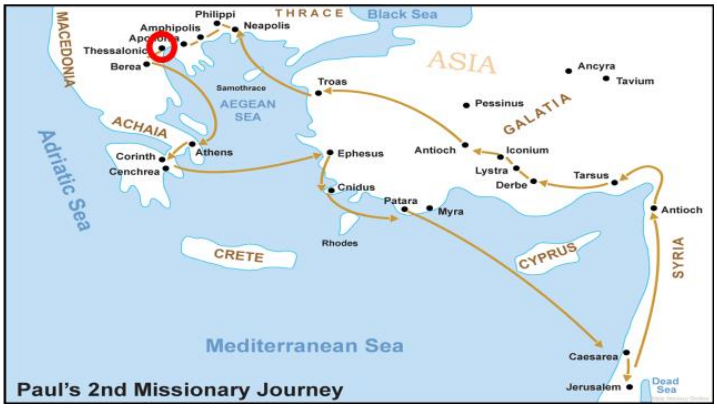
Filipos, Kavala, Greece

75. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE ANCIENT CITY OF THESSALONICA

Thessaloniki, Greece. Google Earth Coordinates: 40°38'14.03"N, 22°56'45.78"E

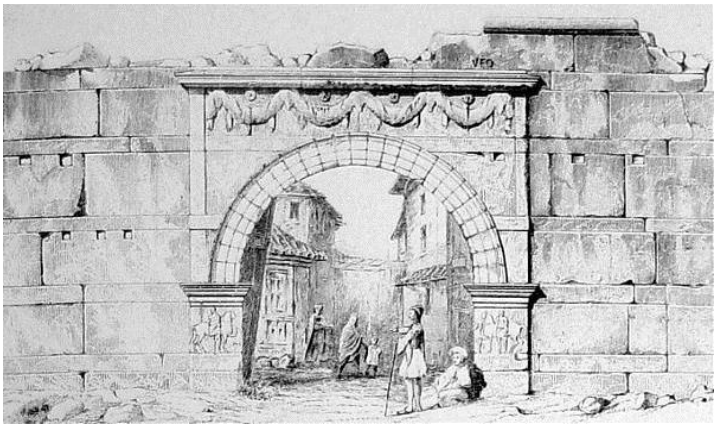
Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbath days reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is Christ." And some of them believed; and a large multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas. But the Jews who did not believe, becoming envious, took some of the wicked men of a vulgar sort, and gathering a mob, set the entire city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, shouting, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here also. Acts 17:1-6 (KJV 2016)

Today much of present-day Thessaloniki covers the ancient ruins of Thessalonica. However, recently Roman remains were unearthed (as seen below). Interestingly the "rulers of the city", or *politarches*, was a term inscribed on the city's gates. The Jewish community was quite vibrant for nearly 2 millennia. In Paul's day, he visited the Synagogue which has not been discovered yet to my knowledge. Tragically, nearly 60,000 of the Jews living in Thessaloniki were deported by Hitler's Nazi and nearly all died in concentration camps. Today the Jewish population is only 1200.



First Century Bath House discovered in Thessaloniki

Thessalonian Roman Market



The Vardar Gate, Thessalonica

The "Politarches" Inscription, from the Vardar Gate, now in the British Museum

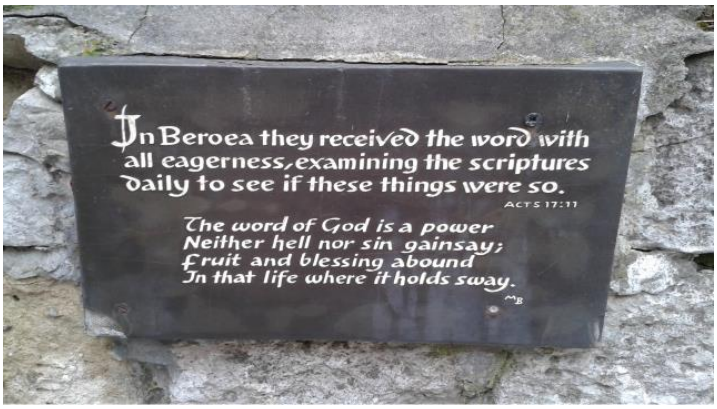
75
Acts 17:1-6
Ancient Thessalonica,
Thessaloniki, Greece

76. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE ANCIENT CITY OF BEREA

Veria, Greece. Google Earth Coordinates: 40°31'24.70"N, 22°12'18.20"E

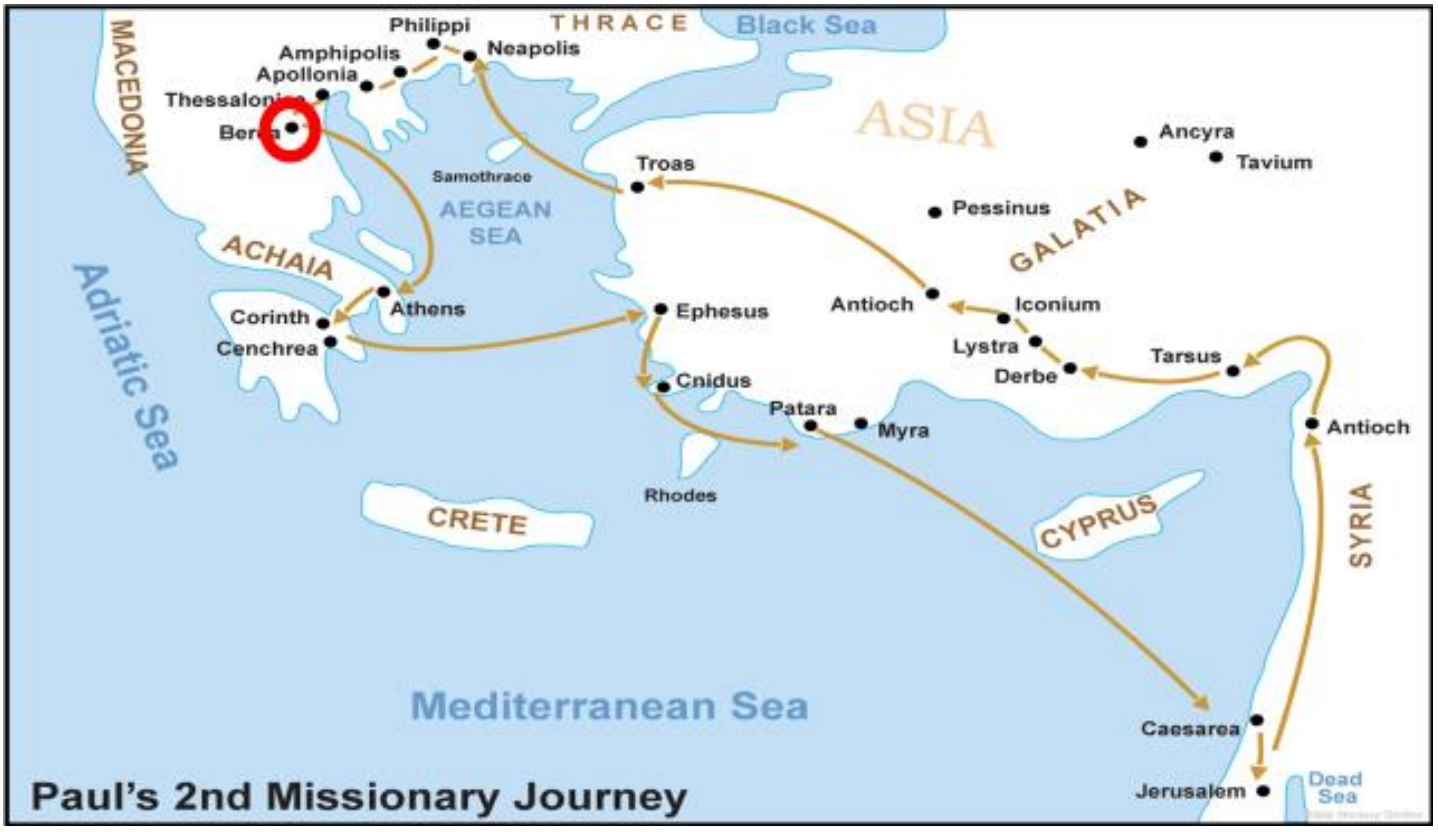
Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men. But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds. And then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go as it were to the sea; but both Silas and Timothy remained there. Acts 17:10-14 (KJV 2016)

According to tradition, the Apostle Paul came to Berea and preached to the Bereans at this place where the present monument stands.



Inscription in Berea

Monument to Paul's Mission to Berea



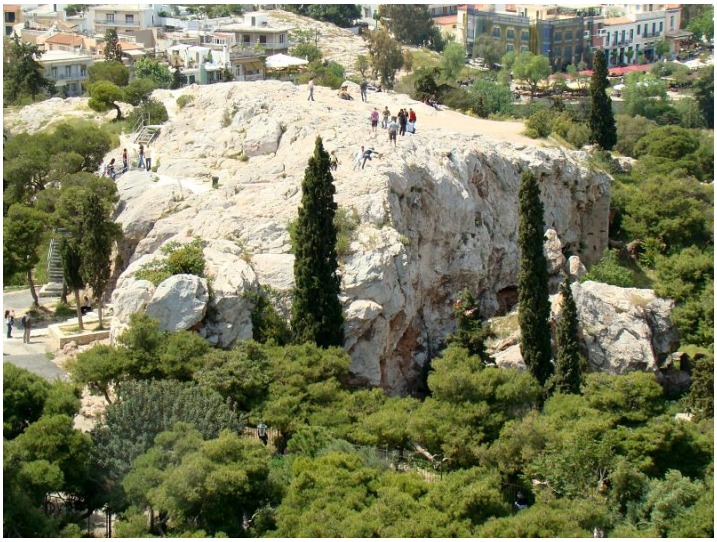
76
Acts 17:10-14
Ancient Berea
Veria, Imathia, Greece

77. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE AREOPAGUS IN ATHENS

Athens, Greece. Google Earth Coordinates: 37°58'20.31"N, 23°43'24.05"E

And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? Because, you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean." Because, all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else except to tell or to hear something new. Then Paul stood in the midst of the Mars' Hill and said, "You men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are too superstitious; because, as I was passing by and considering the objects of your worship, I found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you ignorantly worship, Him I proclaim to you: Acts 17:19-22 (KJV 2016)

In ancient times, the Areopagus was a place in Athens where those accused of murder would stand trial. It was the place where the council or court of justice met in the open air on the hill. Later on the Romans renamed it Mars Hill after Mars, the Roman god of war. It was here that Paul preached his sermon to the Athenians and proclaimed to them about the "unknown god", that this God was the Creator of all things and preached the gospel to them.



The Areopagus in Athens

St. Paul's entire Sermon in Greek at site

77

Acts 17:19-22

Place where St. Paul Preached

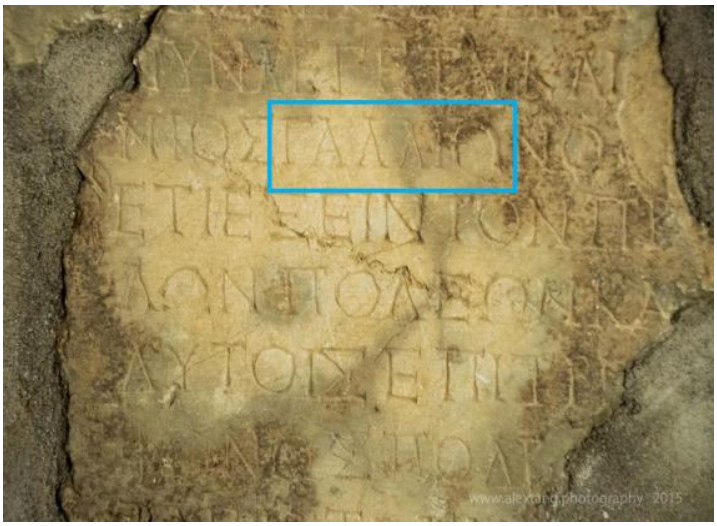
Areopagus, Athens, Greece

78. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR GALLIO, PROCONSUL OF ACHAIA

Now in Delphi Museum, Greece. Google Earth Coordinates: 38°28'49.23"N, 22°29'59.11"E

When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat, saying, "This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law." And when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you. But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look to it yourselves; because I do not want to be a judge of such matters." And he drove them from the judgment seat. Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. But Gallio took no notice of these things. Acts 18:12-17 (KJV 2016)

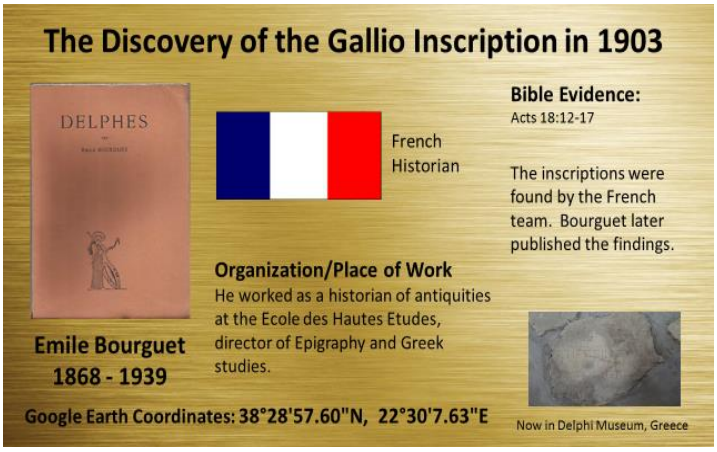
In 1903, a collection of 9 fragments of writing were discovered in Delphi, Greece, in the Temple of Apollo, by Emile Bourget, French Archaeologist and a team of French Archaeologists from the École Française d'Athènes . They were written by the Emperor Claudius and in the inscription, it says: "my friend Gallio, Proconsul." This find fully confirms the Biblical account in Acts 18:12-17

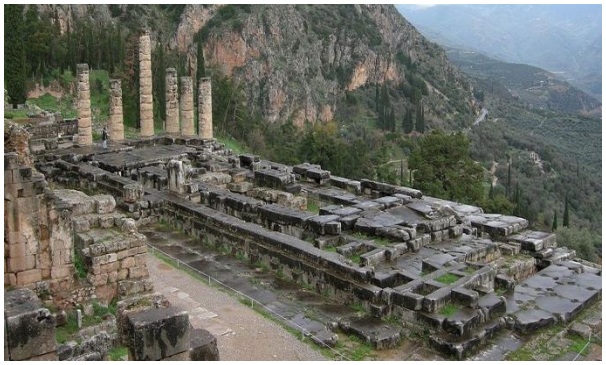


The Gallio Inscription

TRANSLATION:

*Tiber[ius Claudius Cae]sar Augustus Ge[rmanicus, invested with tribunician po]wer [for the 12th time, acclaimed Imperator for t]he 26th time, F[ather of the Fa]ther[land...]. For a l[ong time have I been not onl]y [well-disposed towards t]he ci[ty] of Delph[i, but also solicitous for its pro]sperity, and I have always guard[ed th]e cul[t of t]he [Pythian] Apol[lo. But] now [since] it is said to be desti[tu]te of [citi]zens**, as [L. Jun]ius Gallio, my fri[end] an[d procon]sul,** [recently reported to me, and being desirous that Delphi] should retain [inta]ct its for[mer rank, I] ord[er you (pl.) to in]vite well-born people also from [ot]her cities [to Delphi as new inhabitants....]*





Temple of Apollo at Delphi

78

Acts 18:12-17

Evidence for Proconsul Gallio

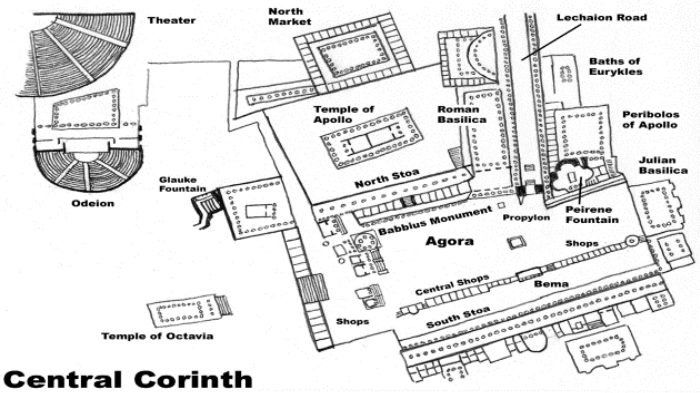
Delphi Museum, Greece

79. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE BEMA SEAT AND JEWISH PRESENCE IN CORINTH

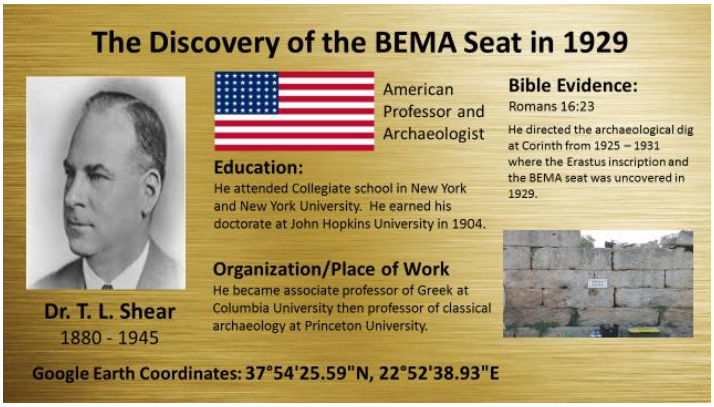
Archaea Korinthos, Greece. Google Earth Coordinates: 37°54'20.53"N, 22°52'45.84"E

When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat, saying, "This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law." Acts 18:12-13 (KJV 2016)

In 1929, American Archaeologist Dr. T.L. Shear conducted excavations and discovered the main judgment seat of Corinth right next to the Agora. The Apostle Paul stood right before the judgment seat but before he could give his defense, Gallio the Proconsul of Achaia refused to hear the matter and the case was dismissed. Then a synagogue inscription was found that gives evidence of a synagogue from the 5th century.



The BEMA judgment seat in Ancient Corinth where Paul stood



The BEMA Seat

Marble relief from the remains of the synagogue in Corinth

Synagogue Lintel Inscription from Corinth (5th Century AD). It reads "GOGE EBR = [SYNA]GOGE EBR[AION]. It gives proof of a Jewish community in the 5th Century AD. The Menorahs found also date to the 5th century AD.

79

Acts 18:12-13

Judgment Seat where Paul Stood

Ancient Corinth, Greece

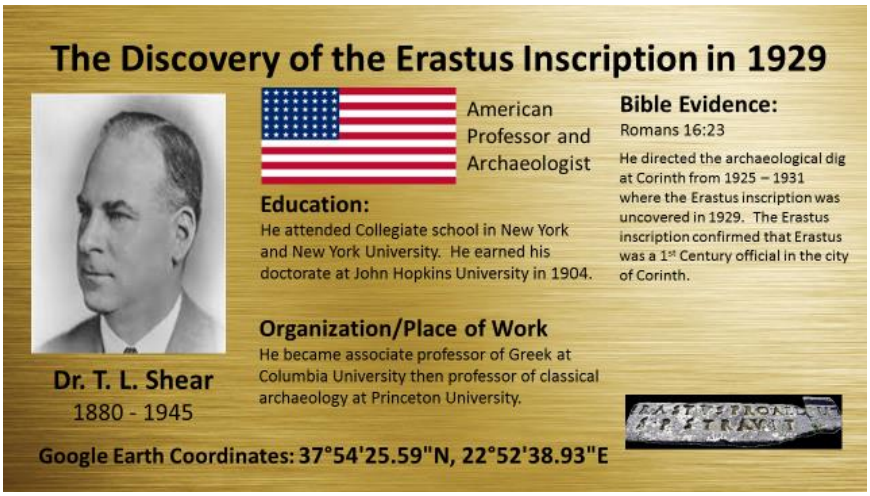
80. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR ERASTUS IN CORINTH

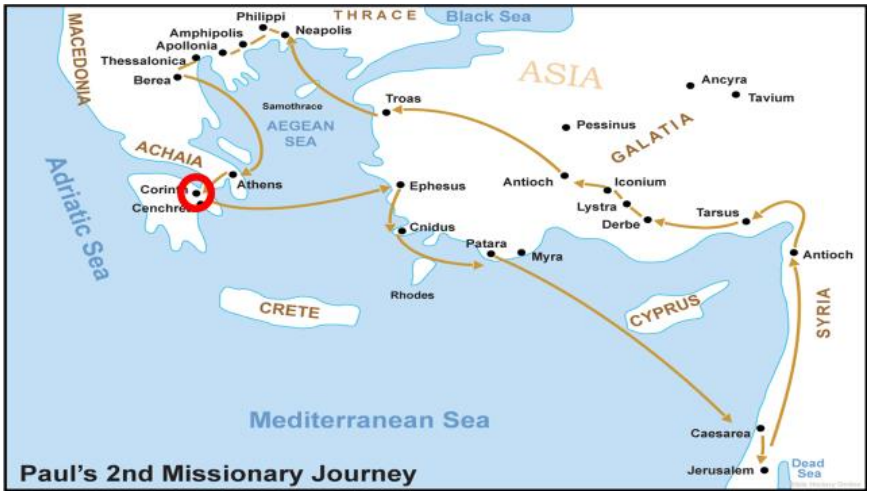
Archaea Korinthos, Greece. Google Earth Coordinates: 37°54'25.59"N, 22°52'38.93"E

Gaius, my host and the host of the entire church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, and Quartus, a brother. Romans 16:23 (KJV 2016)

In 1929, American Archaeologist Dr. T.L. Shear directed excavations in ancient Corinth and discovered an inscription which clearly gives the name Erastus. It reads: ""Erastus in return for his aedile ship, laid the pavement at his own expense". An aedile means that he was responsible for public buildings and festivals and for enforcing public order. This is evidence that Erastus was a city official in Corinth and Dr. Shear believed that it was almost certainly the Erastus mentioned by Paul in the book of Romans.

The Erastus Inscription: It reads: ""Erastus in return for his aedileship laid the pavement at his own expense" (Latin: ERASTVS. PRO. AED. S. P. STRAVIT).





80
Romans 16:23
Erastus Inscription
Ancient Corinth, Greece

81. THIS IS THE THEATRE IN EPHESUS AND SHRINES OF DIANA

Selcuk, Izmir, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 37°56'27.76"N, 27°20'32.48"E

And about that time there arose no small commotion about the Way. Because, a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen, whom he called together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: "Men, you know that we have our wealth by this trade. Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. So that not only is this trade of ours in danger of becoming disgraced, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence shall be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship." Now when they heard these words, they were full of wrath and shouted out, saying, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" So the entire city was filled with confusion, and having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions, they rushed into the theater with one accord. Acts 19:23-29 (KJV 2016)

Paul's travel companions Gaius and Aristarchus were taken into the Great Theatre in Ephesus which could seat 25,000 people. It was the largest in the Province of Anatolia. The theatre was used for concerts and plays, religious and philosophical discussions and for gladiator and animals fights. The city of Ephesus had an estimated 250,000 people. Today only about 10% of the city has yet been excavated. As well, coins have been found which depict the silver shrines that were made by the silversmiths in the city of Ephesus during the time of the Apostle Paul. This theatre itself and the coins which depict the silver shrines of Diana give evidence of the events which took place in Acts 19:23-29.

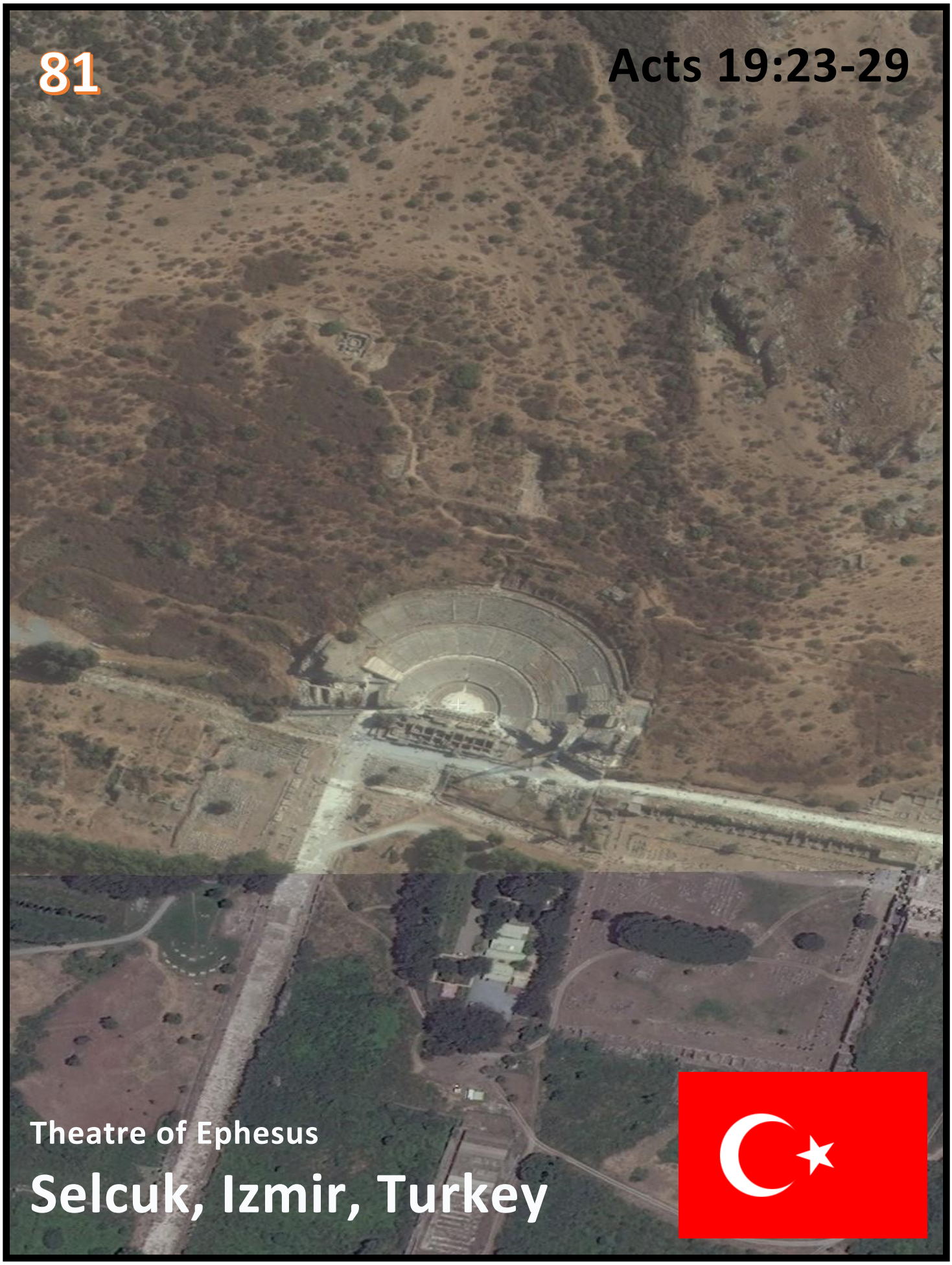
The Theatre in Ephesus

Model of the Temple of Diana in Ephesus, one of the wonders of the ancient world, now in ruins

Coin depicting the Silver Shrines of Diana of Ephesus

81

Acts 19:23-29



Theatre of Ephesus

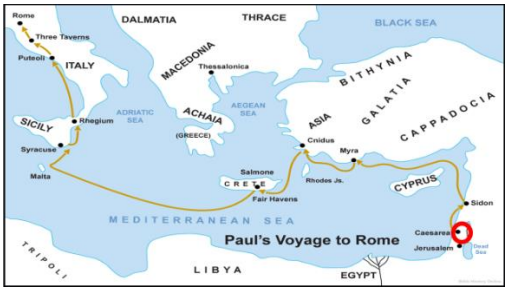
Selcuk, Izmir, Turkey

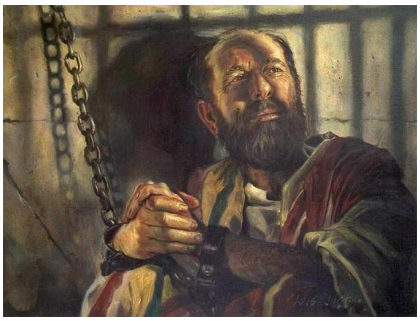
82. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR CAESAREA MARITIMA WHERE PAUL WAS IMPRISONED

Caesarea, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°30'3.92"N, 34°53'32.32"E

"For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar…Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, "You have appealed to Caesar? To Caesar you shall go!" Acts 25:11-12….So the next day, when Agrippa and Bernice had come with great pomp, and had entered the auditorium with the commanders and the prominent men of the city, at Festus' command Paul was brought in." Acts 25:23 (KJV 2016)

In 1976, Dr. Ehud Netzer directed systematic excavations of the Promontory Palace grounds, uncovering the ruins of a magnificent structure. In the center of the Palace was a large rock-cut pool which measured 35 X 18m. The historian Josephus describes an exquisite palace complex for Herod, which was since destroyed. Excavations proceeded to 1994 and continued to reveal many structures of Herod's Palace. In 58 AD, the Apostle Paul, accused of having caused a riot, was sent to Caesarea to be tried by the governor. Being a Roman citizen, Paul demanded to be heard at the Emperor's court. He said: "I appeal to Caesar". He then sailed to Rome from Caesarea's harbor. There he was tried and a few years later executed. This hall, below may very well have been the place where the Apostle Paul appealed to Caesar and he may have been imprisoned for nearly 2 years in the Promontory Palace grounds.





The Apostle Paul spent 2 years here

A	Theater	E	Lighthouse
B	Palace	F	Aqueduct
C	Temple of Augustus	G	Amphitheater
D	Harbor (Sebastos)	H	Hippodrome

Herod's Palace Complex in Caesarea Maritima

Herod's Promontory Palace ruins

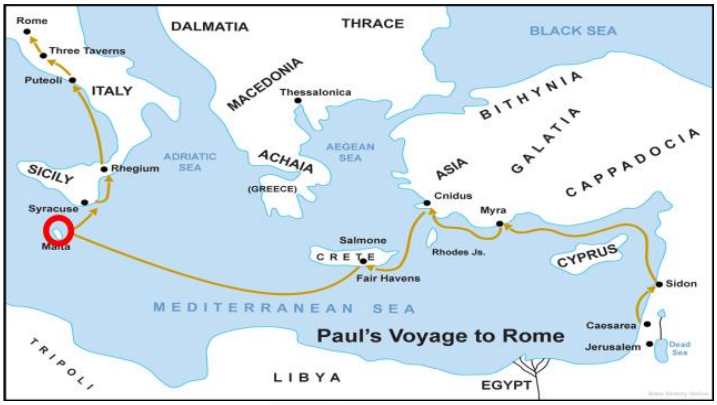
82
Acts 25:11-23
Herod's Palace where Paul Imprisoned
Caesarea Maritima, Israel

83. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR PAUL'S GRAIN SHIPWRECK IN MALTA

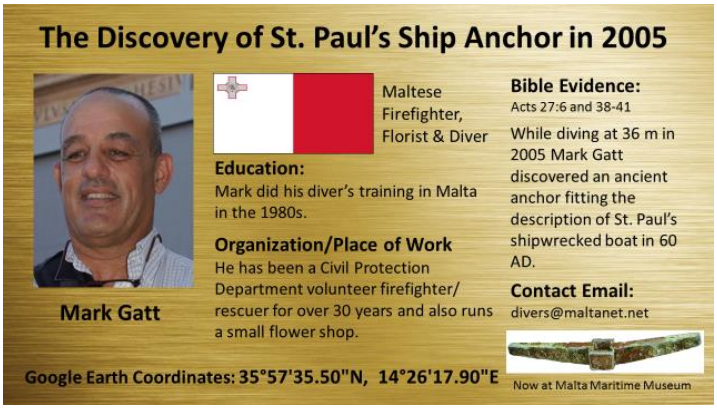
Salinas Bay, Malta. Google Earth Coordinates: 35°57'35.50"N, 14°26'17.90"E
Now at Malta Maritime Museum, Google Earth Coordinates: 35°53'16.72"N, 14°31'14.79"E

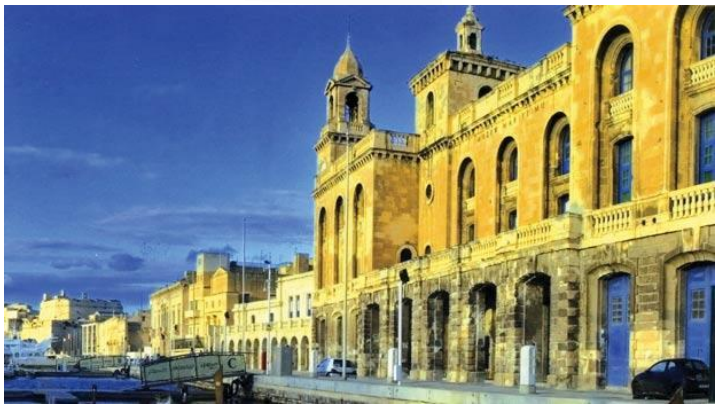
And there the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing to Italy, and he put us on board. And when we had sailed slowly many days, and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, the wind not permitting us to proceed, we sailed under Crete off Salmone. And passing it with difficulty, we came to a place called The Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea. Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, and said to them, "Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives…..And in all we were two hundred and seventy six persons on the ship. So when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship and threw out the wheat into the sea. And when it was day, they did not recognize the land; but they observed a bay with a beach, onto which they planned to drive the ship if possible. And when they had taken up the anchors, they committed themselves to the sea, untied the rudder ropes, hoisted the mainsail to the wind, and made for shore. And striking a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the front stuck fast and remained immovable, but the back part was being broken up by the violence of the waves. And the soldiers' instructions were to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape. But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, kept them from their purpose, and commanded that those who could swim should throw themselves first into the sea and get to land, and the rest, some on boards and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it was that they all escaped safely to land. Acts 27:6-10; 37-44 (KJV 2016)

On April 25th, 2005, while diving off the Northern coast of Malta, Paul Gatt, a Maltese volunteer firefighter and florist, discovered a large metal anchor. This anchor was 2.3 m in length and weighed 700 Kg. It was found at a depth of 36 m of water in Salina Bay, Malta. The inscription on the anchor were the deities ISIS and SERAPIS. This indicates that this ship was constructed in Egypt, where ISIS was one of the chief deities and Serapis was a Greco-Egyptian god. In Acts 27, Luke tells us that the ship was Alexandrian, so this is evidence that this could have belonged to this extremely important ship carrying 276 passengers that ran aground in the same area of Malta. The anchor is now on display at the Malta Maritime Museum in Vittoriosa, Malta.



Pope Benedict views the Anchor in Malta





The Malta Maritime Museum, Vittoriosa

Acts 27:6-44

The Place where the Anchor was found in Salinas Bay

A modern 300-Passenger Vessel to give size perspective

What the anchor may have originally looked like

The Anchor is now on display at the Malta Maritime Museum, Vittoriosa, Malta

84. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE MAMERTINE PRISON IN ROME

Ancient Rome, Italy. Google Earth Coordinates: 41°53'35.69"N, 12°29'4.19"E

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the afflictions for the gospel according to the power of God….For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. 2 Timothy 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:6-8 (KJV 2016)

The Mamertine prison was a place where criminals accused of serious crimes would spend short stays prior to their execution. Many died within the cell which was initially a water cistern, converted to a jail cell perhaps in the 7th century BC, when it was the only prison, and used until the 4th century AD. The ancient historian Sallust said that it was 12 feet below the ground and "neglect, darkness and stench made it hideous and fearsome to behold." According to tradition both the Apostles Peter and Paul both spent time in the Mamertine prison in Rome prior to their execution. Church legend records that Peter was kept here and his fellow prisoners were converted to Christ. Then miraculously a spring began to flow on the cell floor and he then baptized the new converts inside the cell. Then he was crucified upside-down around 62 AD under the Emperor Nero believing that he was not worthy to die in the same way as Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul was taken to Rome following the shipwreck, stood trial before the emperor, but was under house arrest. He was later released then arrested again and brought to prison in Rome. It was probably here where he wrote the Second Epistle to Timothy knowing that the time of his death was imminent. Paul was beheaded later on order of Nero around 65-67 AD.

Golden engraving of St. Peter baptizing fellow prisoners

The Mamertine Prison in Rome

The Round Prison Cell (With St. Peter's upside down cross altar)

The Apostles Peter then Paul were chained to this column

84
2 Timothy 4:6-8
Mamertine Prison
Rome, Italy

85. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR MARY'S HOME IN EPHESUS

Orman Yolu Park, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 37°54'43.14"N, 27°19'57.65"E

Therefore, when Jesus saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. John 19:26 (KJV 2016)

Tradition holds that the Apostle John took care of Mary as he fled from Palestine following intense persecution under King Agrippa I. John fled to Ephesus with Mary, became a pastor, served there and took care of Mary in his own home. In 1881, Father Julien Gouyet, a French Roman Catholic priest discovered a small stone building dating to the Byzantine period and further excavations revealed a first century dwelling with a small bedroom on the side believed to be Mary's bedroom. It is located on a mountain near the ancient ruins of Ephesus overlooking the Aegean Sea. It was realized that this small stone building without a roof had been venerated by the early church and was frequented by people nearby who were descendants of the original faithful Ephesian Christians whose ancestors the Apostle John served as leader. Today pilgrims who come to this home can visit the chapel and write prayers and wishes and attach them to a wishing wall on the grounds of Mary's home. As well, a spring of water flows underneath the home and pilgrims come and drink its waters. It is believed that these waters have curative properties.

The place believed to be the home of Mary in Ephesus

Pope Benedict at the Home of Mary

Pilgrims come and drink from Mary's Spring

A woman ties a petition on the wishing wall

The adjoining room of Mary

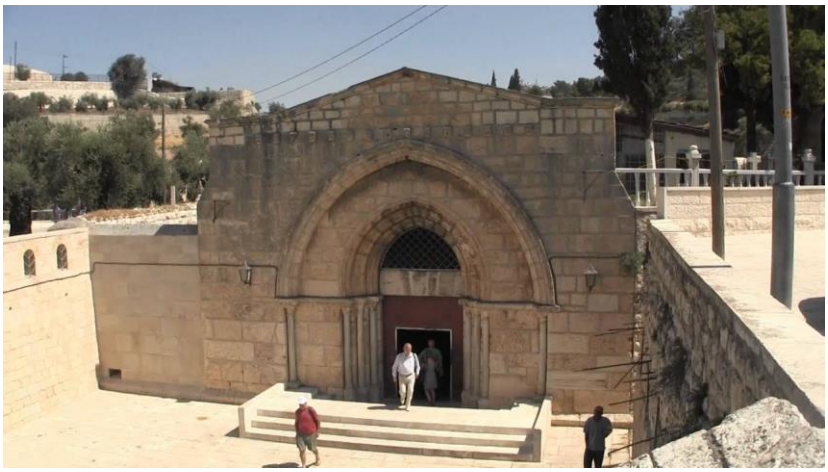
85
John 19:26
Home of Blessed Mary
Orman Yolu Park, Turkey

86. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF MARY MOTHER OF JESUS (41 AD)

The Tomb of the Blessed Mary, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31° 46' 48" N, 35° 14' 23" E

Therefore, when Jesus saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. John 19:26 (KJV 2016)

According to tradition, Mary the mother of Jesus travelled to Ephesus along with the Apostle John, who was commissioned with caring for her by Jesus Himself. She lived in Ephesus for some time before returning to Jerusalem and dying in and around the year 41 AD. Her body was then taken to the Tomb of the Virgin Mary in Jerusalem. Catholic and Orthodox believers believe that she was resurrected (the assumption) on the 3rd day and later ascended to heaven; so her tomb was empty. This tomb is found at the foot of the Mount of Olives near the Garden of Gethsemane. In 1972, Bellarmino Bagatti, a Franciscan friar and archaeologist, excavated the site and found a 1st century cemetery. A small place of worship – an edicule – was built over the original site of the tomb of Mary. Then a larger octagonal church was built over this in the 5th century but was destroyed by the Persian invasion of 614 AD. The site was rebuilt and destroyed several times and in the year 1130 the tomb was rebuilt by the Crusaders but then later destroyed by Saladin. Finally in the year 1757, Greek Orthodox clergy expelled the Franciscans. Now the site has been continued to be cared for by the Armenian Orthodox and the Greek Orthodox church of Jerusalem.



The Tomb of the Virgin Mary, Jerusalem, Israel

Entrance to the Tomb

The Tomb of the Virgin Mary (an Empty Stone Bench)

86

John 19:26

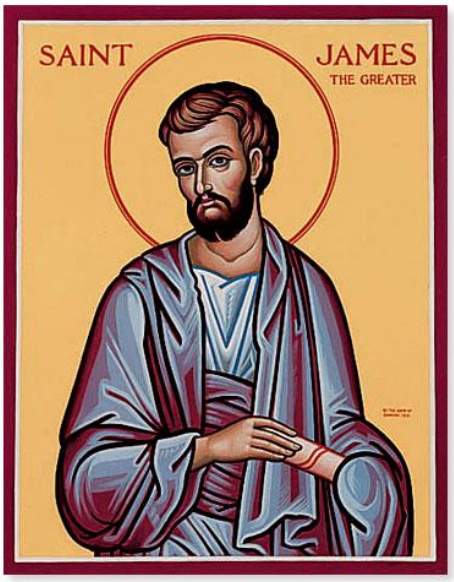
Tomb of the Virgin Mary

Jerusalem, Israel

87. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH OF ST. JAMES SON OF ZEBEDEE (44 AD)

Place of Death: Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'27.48"N, 35°13'44.08"E

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. Matthew 10:1-4 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out *his* hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. Acts 12:1-2 (KJV 2016)



James, son of Zebedee, was a fisherman by trade working in Capernaum when Jesus called him to a lifetime of ministry. He and his brother John were nicknamed Boanerges or Sons of Thunder. He was a strong leader of the church, and by order of Herod Agrippa I, in 44 AD, James was beheaded in Jerusalem. The Roman officer who guarded James watched amazed as James defended his faith at his trial. Later, this officer walked beside James to the place of execution. Overcome by conviction, he declared his new Christian faith to the judge and knelt beside James to accept beheading as a Christian. This took place in the location that is now St. James Church in Jerusalem.

The Cathedral of St. James, Jerusalem

Altar (place of death) inside the Cathedral of St. James, Jerusalem

87

N

Acts 12:1-2

The Beheading of St. James

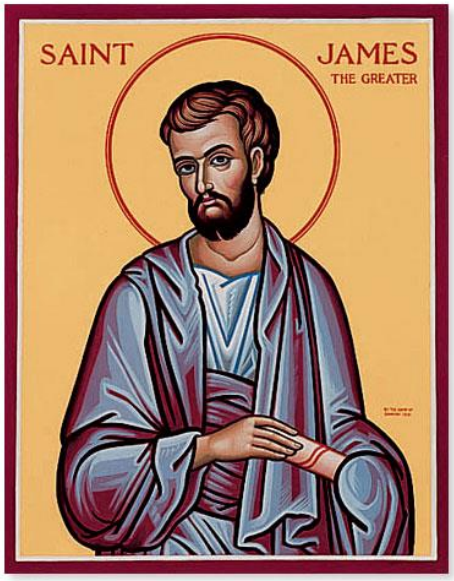
The Cathedral of St. James

Jerusalem, Israel

88. EVIDENCE FOR THE BURIAL OF ST. JAMES SON OF ZEBEDEE (44 AD)

Place of Burial: Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Google Earth Coordinates: 42°52'50.17"N, 8°32'39.76"W

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." John 12:24 (KJV 2016)

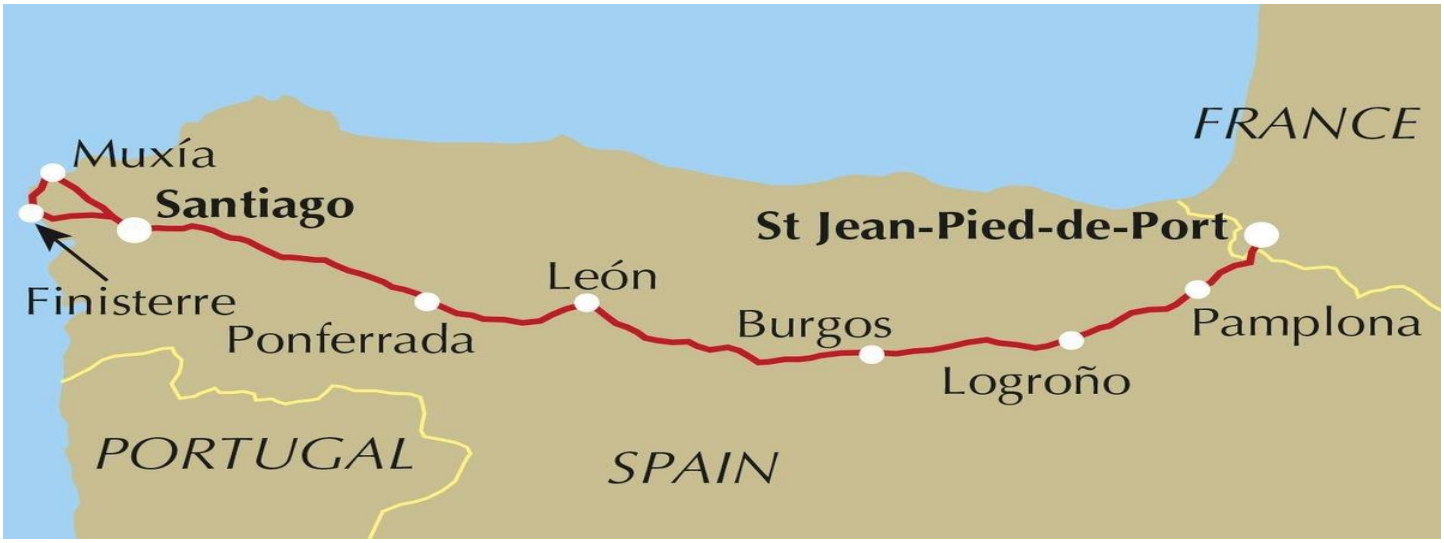


Some traditions hold that James had gone previously to preach the gospel in Iberia (modern Spain), so his decapitated body was transferred by believers from Jerusalem to the tomb within what is now in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, Spain. In Spanish, James is Santiago, and he is the Patron Saint of Spain. Many Christians from around the world make a 800 km pilgrimage on the "Camino de Santiago" from a small town in France to just beyond Santiago de Compostela remembering the life of that faithful apostle James, or Santiago, who is the patron saint of Spain.

Pilgrims on the The Camino de Santiago

Altar within Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Altar within Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, Spain



The Camino de Santiago

88

John 12:42

Spanish Christians

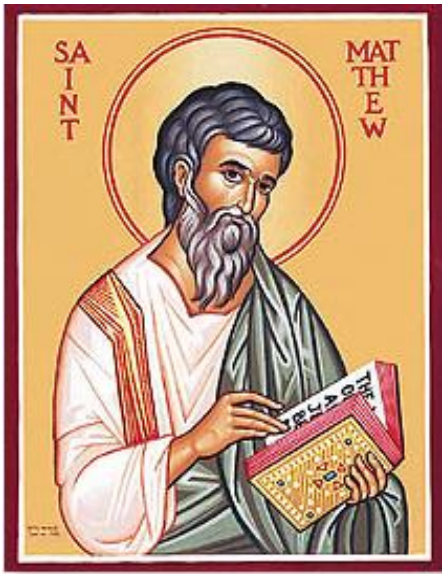
The Burial Place of St. James

Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela

Santiago de Compostela, Spain

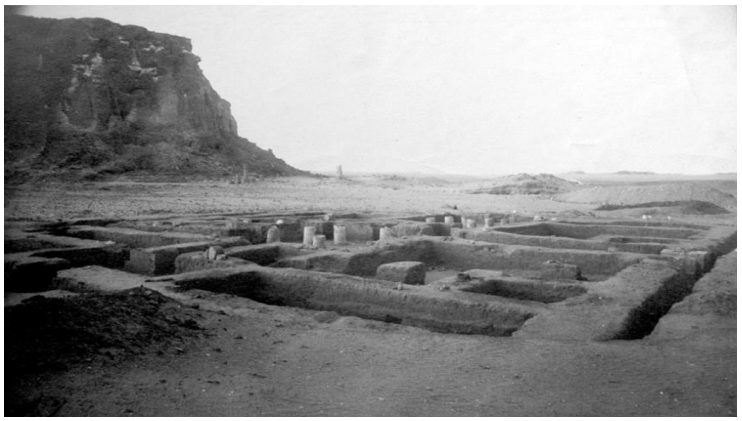
89. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH OF ST. MATTHEW (60 AD)

Place of Death: Jebel Barkal, Karima, Northern State, Sudan. Google Earth Coordinates: 18°32'10.12"N, 31°49'42.74"E



And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. Matthew 10:1-4 (KJV 2016)

St. Matthew (or Levi) son of Alpheus was a tax collector by profession and sat and received taxes from his place of occupation in Capernaum. As a tax collector he was literate in both Aramaic and Greek. He invited Jesus to his home for a feast with other tax collectors and "sinners". According to Irenaeus and Clement of Alexandria, Matthew preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Jews living in Judea following the ascension of Jesus Christ before going to other countries. It was Matthew who was credited to writing the first gospel according to Papias of Hierapolis (100-140 AD). Ethiopian Church tradition states that Matthew along with Bartholomew came to Ethiopia for a mission that lasted 3 months. Tradition holds that King Hirticus had Matthew killed because he wished to marry a convent abbess named Iphigenia and the Apostle Matthew forbade it as she was dedicated to Christ. It was in Ethiopia or Kush that the Apostle Matthew was martyred for his faith by being killed with the halberd in the city of Nadabah (as recounted in Foxe's Book of Martyrs) in 60 AD. It would make sense that it was in Napata because this was the capital of the Kush Kingdom and it was here that the King of Kush reigned. In 1916, American Archaeologist and Harvard Professor of Egyptology George A. Reisner made excavations of the city of Napata, Capital of the Kush Kingdom, and uncovered the Royal Palace from which the King who killed Matthew reigned.



Reisner's Excavations of Palace in Napata, Kush Kingdom (1916)

Ruins in Jebal Barkal, Sudan (Napata, Kush Kingdom)

89

Matthew 10:1-4

The Martyrdom of Matthew

Ancient Napata

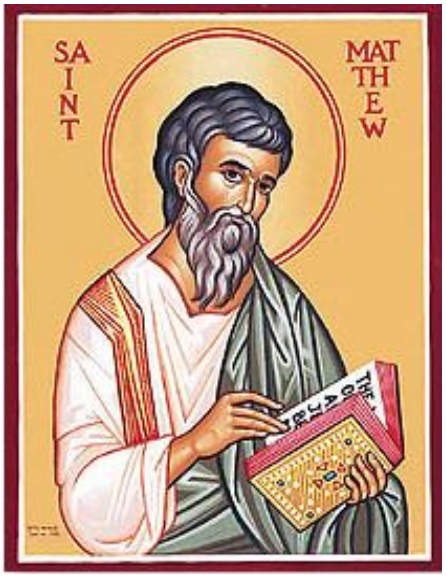
Jebel Barkai, Karina

Northern State, Sudan

90. EVIDENCE FOR THE BURIAL OF ST. MATTHEW (60 AD)

Place of Burial: Salerno Cathedral, Salerno, Italy. Google Earth Coordinates: 40°40'48.38"N, 14°45'36.69"E

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." John 12:24 (KJV 2016)



Matthew was killed by halberd in Napata, the capital of the Kish Kingdom. Then his remains were transported in 1084 AD and interred in a crypt in the Salerno Cathedral in Italy. The Salerno Cathedral is richly decorated in gold with many depictions of the life of Jesus Christ as told in the gospel of Matthew and is a major tourist attraction..

Salerno Cathedral

St. Matthew's Crypt inside church

The Tomb of St. Matthew in the basement of the Salerno Cathedral, Salerno, Italy

90

John 12:24

Sudanese Christians

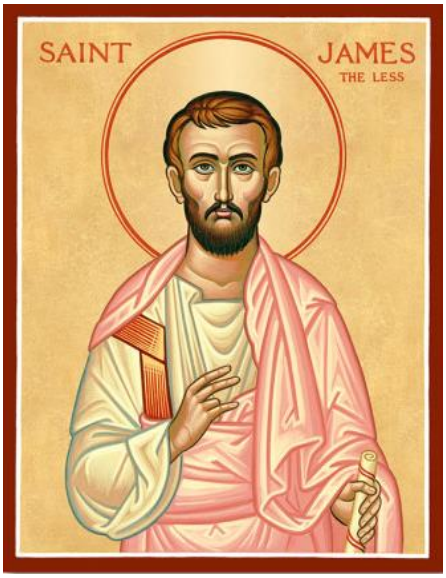
Tomb of St. Matthew

St. Matthew's Salerno Cathedral

Salerno, Italy

91. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. JAMES SON OF ALPHAEUS (62 AD)

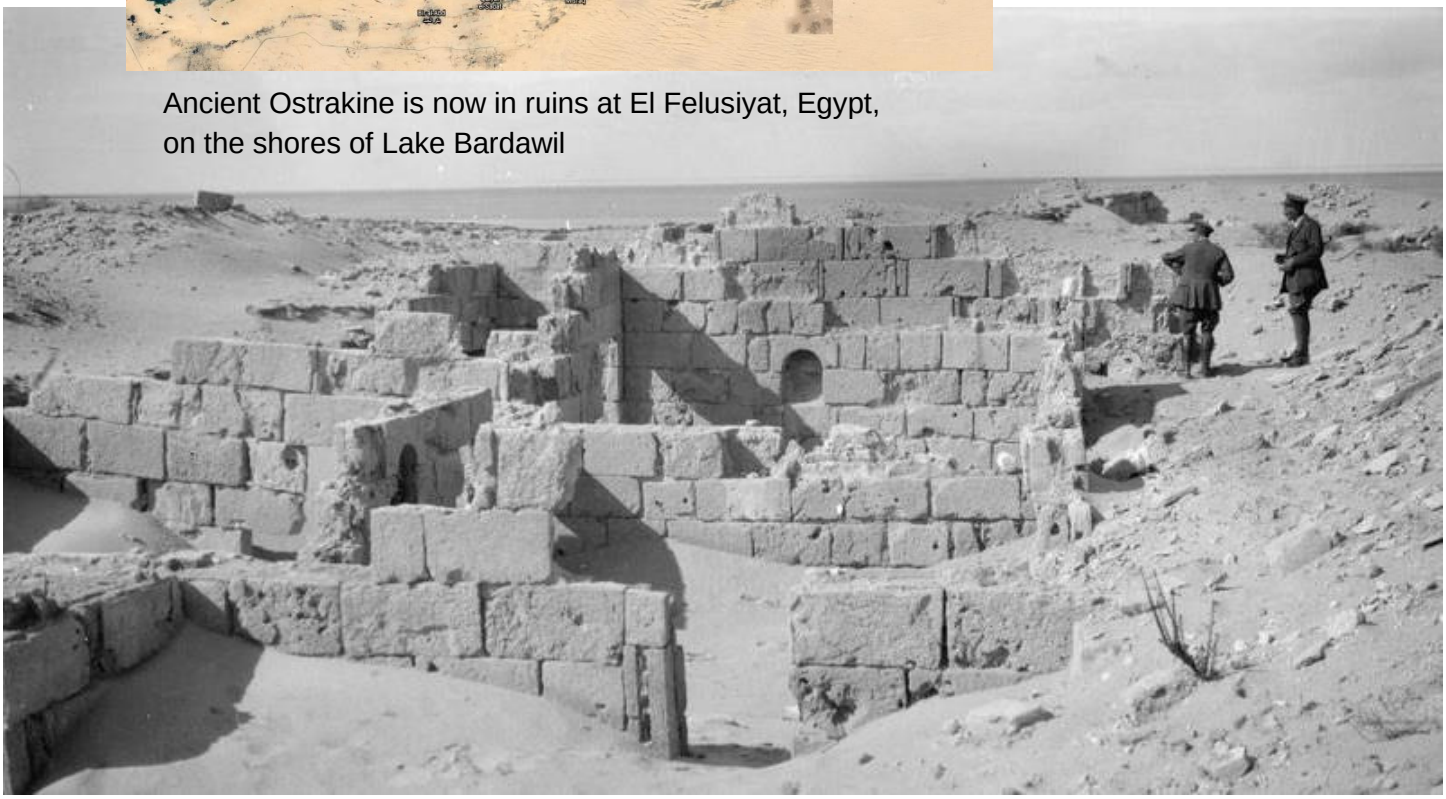
Place of Death: Ostrakine (El Flusiat), Egypt. Google Earth Coordinates: 31° 7'3.85"N, 33°25'54.01"E



And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. Matthew 10:1-4 (KJV 2016)

James the less is different from James the son of Zebedee, being the son of Alphaeus. There is not much known about the life of James the Less, but he is often confused with James the brother of Jesus. According to some traditions James the Less was the first Bishop of Syria. He had made missionary travels through Judea, Edessa, Gaza and Eleutheropolis preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. Tradition maintains that James the Less was captured under charges of having violated the laws of Moses. He was then crucified at Ostrakine in Lower Egypt where he was preaching the gospel in 62 AD. Afterwards his body was later sawn to pieces. His remains are located at the Santi Apostoli church in Rome, Italy.

Ancient Ostrakine is now in ruins at El Felusiyat, Egypt, on the shores of Lake Bardawil



Ruins of Ostrakine, 1917, now El Felusiyat, Egypt

91

Matthew 10:1-4

Egyptian Christian Martyrs in 2015

Martyrdom of James son of Alphaeus

Place of Martyrdom of St. James

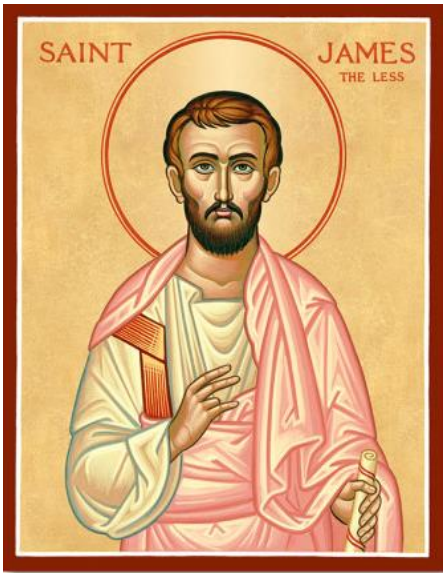
Ancient Ruins of Ostrakine

El Felusiyat, Egypt

92. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. JAMES SON OF ALPHAEUS (62 AD)

Place of Burial: Church of Santi Apostoli, Rome, Italy. Google Earth Coordinates: 41° 53' 53.18" N, 12° 28' 59.54" E

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." John 12:24 (KJV 2016)



James the Less was crucified at Ostrakine in Lower Egypt where he was preaching the gospel in 62 AD. Afterwards his body was later sawn to pieces. The supposed remains of St. James included fragments of femur and tibia bone. When the bones were dated by Carbon 14 they were shown to have belonged to a person who lived between 214 to 340 AD. So these remains could not have belonged to St. James the son of Alphaeus, however, the mummified foot of St. Philip was not tested and therefore could be a legitimate relic of the disciple. Both the relicss of supposed St. James and Phiip are located in a box in the basement of the Church of Santi Apostoli in Rome. What would be interesting to do is to excavate the ruins of Ostrakine to see if the tomb of St. James the less is there. Future excavation would certainly be of value not only to history in general but to the Christian faith in Egypt.

Within the Beautifully decorated Santi Apostoli Church, Rome, Italy

Santi Apostoli Church, Rome, Italy

Tomb containing the bones of Philip and James the Less

92

John 12:24

Egyptian Christians

The Relics of St. James & St. Philip

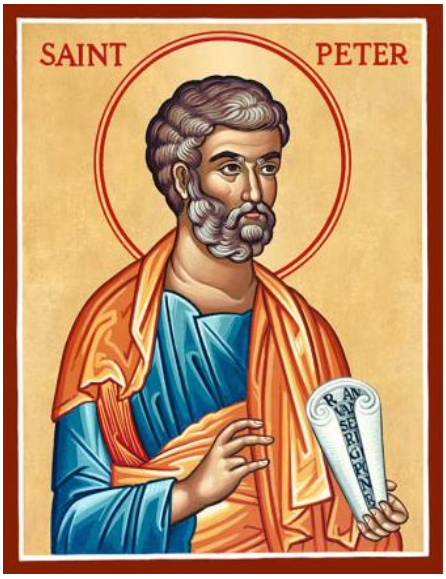
Church of Santi Apostoli

Rome, Italy

93. EVIDENCE FOR THE TRADITIONAL DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. PETER (62 AD)

Place of Death: Clementine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, Rome. Google Earth Coordinates: 41°54'7.92"N, 12°27'11.88"E
Place of Burial: St. Peter's Basilica, Rome. Google Earth Coordinates: 41°54'7.92"N, 12°27'11.88"E

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. Matthew 10:1-4 (KJV 2016)



Simon was the son of Jonah and brother of Andrew. He was from the town of Bethsaida, a fishing village near the Sea of Galilee. He married and moved to Capernaum where he made his living from the fishing trade. He was a disciple who was there with Jesus with James and John at the Transfiguration and who called Jesus the Christ the Son of God. Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter. It was Peter who was the leader of the Apostles. Although he denied Jesus at first, he repented then preached the gospel to many Jews in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. It is also believed that Peter was the source of the Gospel of Mark. He travelled on a missionary journey to Lydda, Joppa and Caesarea then he was sent to Samaria by the disciples in Jerusalem. Then Peter was imprisoned in Jerusalem by Herod Agrippa I (AD 42-44) but escaped miraculously by an angel. Then he left Jerusalem in the mid-40s. Strangely the Apostle Paul when writing to the Romans in his epistle in 57 AD, although mentioning about 50 believers, he does not mention St. Peter, the presumed bishop of the church in Rome. According to tradition he became the Bishop of Rome then was martyred under the Emperor Nero in 62 AD. Tradition maintains that he was crucified upside down in what is now the Clementine Chapel and was buried in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City, Italy.

St. Peter's Basiilica, Rome, Italy

Clementine Chapel where Peter was crucified

The Tomb of Saint Peter

93

Matthew 10:1-4

Martyrdom of Saint Peter

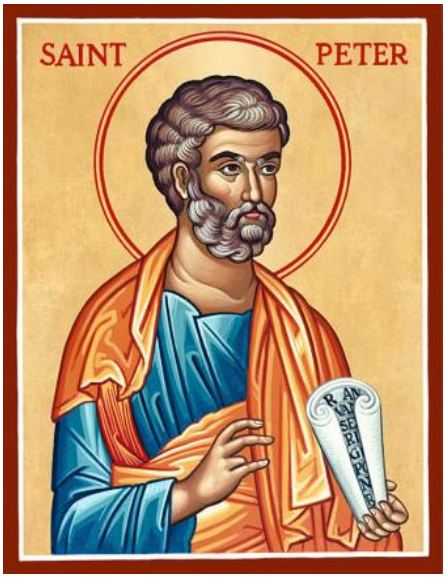
The Place of the Crucifixion and burial of Saint Peter in St. Peter's Basilica

Vatican City in Italy

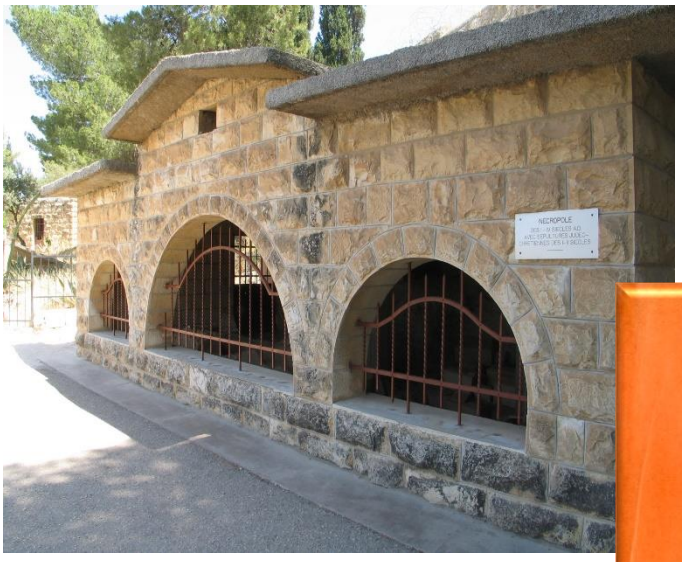
94. EVIDENCE FOR AN ALTERNATE BURIAL OF ST. PETER (62 AD)

Alternate Place of Burial: Grounds of Dominus Flevit Church, Jerusalem, Israel. ***Google Earth Coordinates:*** 31°46'40.15"N, 35°14'30.24"E

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." John 12:24 (KJV 2016)



Another possibility for the burial of St. Peter is that his corpse was taken from Rome and brought to Jerusalem, to the Mount of Olives (Dominus Flevit), and his bones collected in an ossuary. This ossuary was found by Father Dr. Bellarmino Bagatti and bears the inscription "Simon son of Jonah" and is in burial cave 79 where a "Chi-Ro" symbol was found, the symbol of 1st Century Christianity. However, Catholic tradition maintains that he was crucified upside down in what is now the Clementine Chapel and was buried in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy. An ossuary of Simon son of Jonah in Jerusalem would be very astonishing for Catholics who maintain that the body of Simon Peter has always been buried in Rome not in Jerusalem. However, the ossuary remains at the Terra Sancta Museum, Church of the Flagellation, Jerusalem. As well, in tomb number 70 they found an ossuary bearing the names Mary and Martha, who were both from Bethany, as mentioned in detail in the gospels. Their findings were published in 1958 in "Gli Scavi del "Dominus Flevit" parte uno", along with Father J. T. Milik, an expert in ancient languages and who was central to deciphering the Dead Sea Scrolls. This is direct physical evidence from the first century of the existence of Simon son of Jonah, Mary and Martha.



The Necropolis where Bagatti found Christian Ossuaries

Inside the Necropolis with many Ossuaries

Simon son of Jonah Inscription

The Simon son of Jonah Ossuary, Terra Sancta Museum, Jerusalem

94

John 12:24

Italian Christians

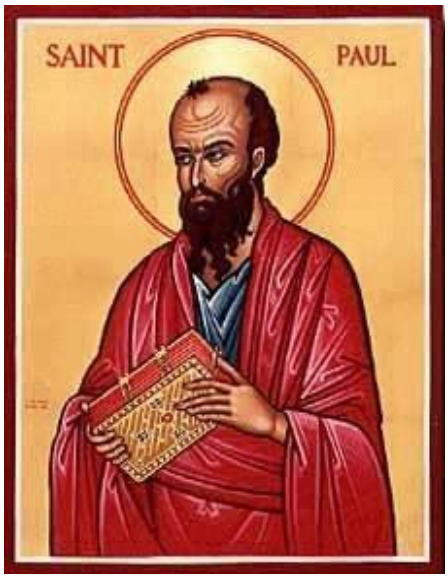
Where Ossuary of Simon bar Jonah found
In necropolis near Dominus Flevit Church

Jerusalem, Israel

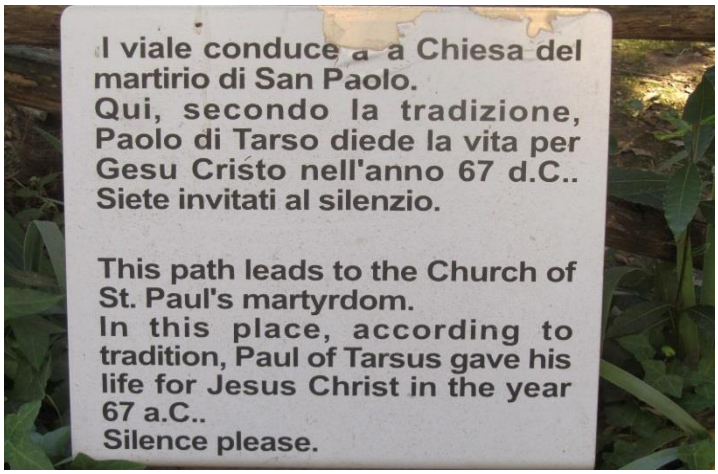
95. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH OF ST. PAUL (67 AD)

Place of Death: Church of 3 Fountains, Rome. Google Earth Coordinates: 41°50'5.07"N, 12°28'58.77"E

[The Apostle Paul] I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7 (KJV 2016)

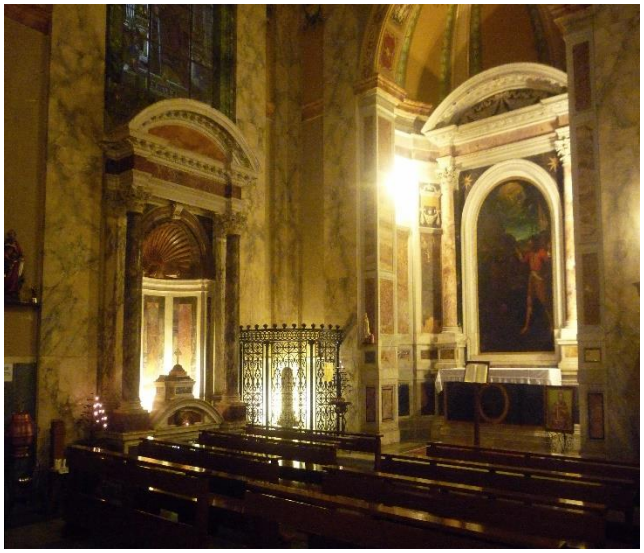


Saul of Tarsus was a man who was driven by zeal for the law of God. Trained as a Pharisee under Gamaliel, he saw the new Christian faith as something to eradicate and passionately sought to arrest all Christians. While on his way to arrest Christians in Damascus, he was met by Jesus Christ in a vision and was converted into a Christian, the very faith he once tried to destroy. The Lord Jesus called him to be an apostle, just like the twelve apostles, to found churches, to oversee and place leaders in the churches, and to go to places where the gospel was previously unknown. Of the 27 books of the New Testament, Saint Paul wrote 13 (and possibly 14) of them. After his conversion, he went to Cyprus, Asia Minor, then to Greece, Malta, then to Italy and Rome where he was under house arrest. He possibly then went to Spain to bring the gospel, then was arrested again and put in the Mamertine prison in Rome a second time and condemned to death by the Emperor Nero. It was from here that he wrote the 2nd letter to Timothy. From here Clement, Bishop of Rome, wrote in 95 AD that Paul was beheaded outside Rome at third milestone on the road to Ostia. Legend says that his severed head bounced 3 times and at each spot a spring flowed out. Even today 3 fountains flow within the church. The place is called the Abbazia delle Tre Fontane, or the Abbey or Church of the 3 Fountains.

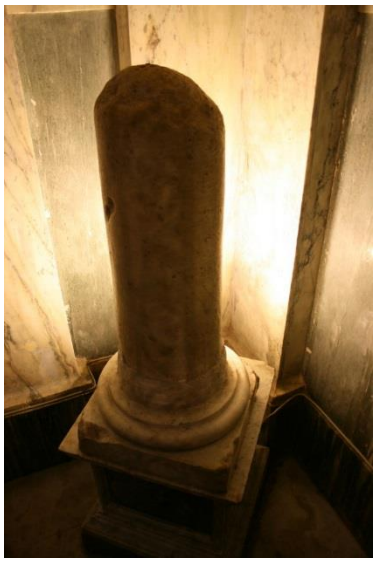


The Roman Road to Ostia down which Paul was led to his death

Church of the 3 Fountains



Inside the church with pillar in centre



The Actual Third Milestone

95

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Beheading of St. Paul

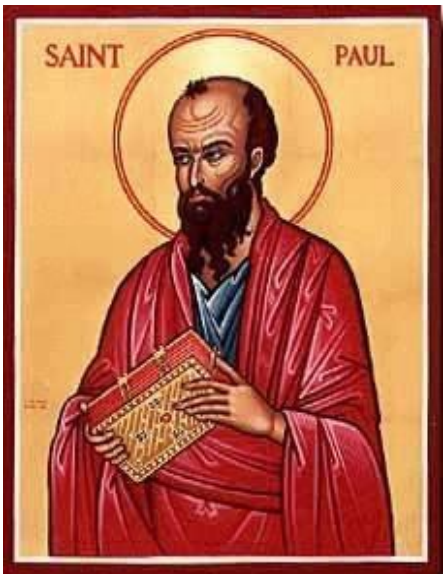
The Place of the martyrdom of St. Paul
Abbazia delle Tre Fontane

Rome, Italy

96. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. PAUL (67 AD)

Place of Burial: Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, Rome. Google Earth Coordinates: 41°51'31.24"N, 12°28'36.24"E

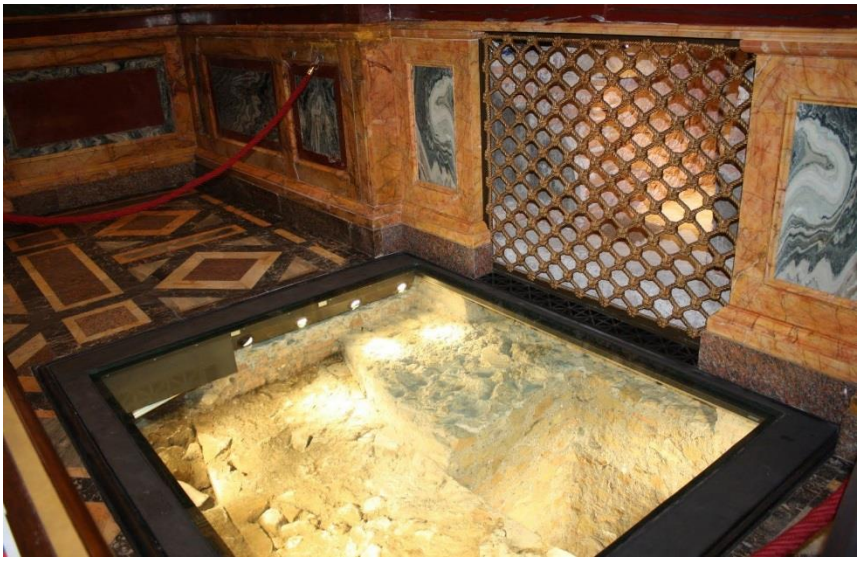
Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." John 12:24 (KJV 2016)



At the time of the execution of St. Paul, Bishop of Rome, Clement wrote: "Weeping friends took his corpse and carried it for burial to the subterranean labyrinthes [the catacombs]." St. Paul's body was buried in the tomb of a woman named Lucina. The Basilica of St. Paul outside the walls in Rome was initially built around the tomb of the apostle by Emperor Constantine in 324 AD. In 2006, as the tomb was excavated, the 8 foot stone coffin of St. Paul was discovered that dated back to 390 AD. The inscription on the tombstone reads in Latin: "Paulo Apostolo Mart." Which means Apostle Paul, Martyr. In 2009, Carbon-14 tests on bone fragments contained within the coffin confirmed that they belonged to someone who lived from the 1st to 2nd centuries. This is indeed the bones of St. Paul the Apostle who brought the gospel to the Gentile world.

The Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, Rome

The Beautiful Interior of the Basilica

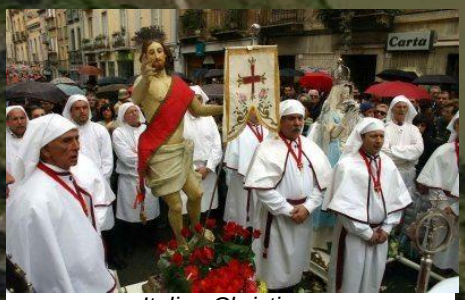


The Tomb of St. Paul

The Tombstone of St. Paul

96

John 12:24



Italian Christians

The Place of the burial of St. Paul

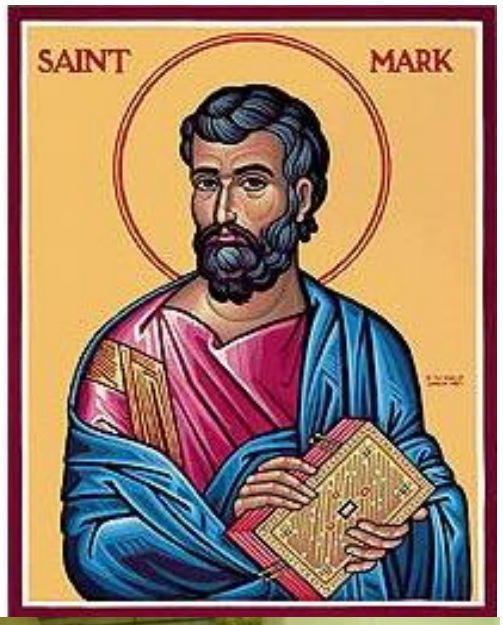
Basilica of St. Paul outside the walls

Rome, Italy

97. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. MARK (68 AD)

Place of Death & Burial: St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral, Alexandria, Egypt. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°11'54.43"N, 29°53'57.50"E

And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was Mark. Acts 12:24-25 (KJV 2016)



St. Mark was not part of the 12 disciples but was the author of the second gospel that bears his name. It is said that the gospel account was really Peter's eyewitness account that Mark wrote down for him. Mark, also known as John-Mark travelled with Paul and his cousin Barnabas on their first missionary journey to Cyprus and Asia Minor. Paul didn't want him on their later missionary trips but Barnabas insisted that he stay with the team. So Barnabas and John-Mark said goodbye to Paul and went together and Paul went with Silas. Coptic Christians believe that St. Mark came to Alexandria in the year 49 AD and stayed among the Egyptian people, leading the churches, and was the first Bishop of Alexandria until his martyrdom in 68 AD. He is honored as the founder of Christianity in Africa. Pagans in Alexandria were angry that Mark was turning the people away from the gods. They put a noose around his neck and dragged him through the streets of Alexandria until he was dead. His body was buried right on the grounds of St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral.

Saint Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral, Alexandria, Egypt

Chests containing the relics of St. Mark inside the Cathedral

Interior of the Beautfiful Saint Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedra

97

Acts 12:24-25

The Martyrdom of St. Mark

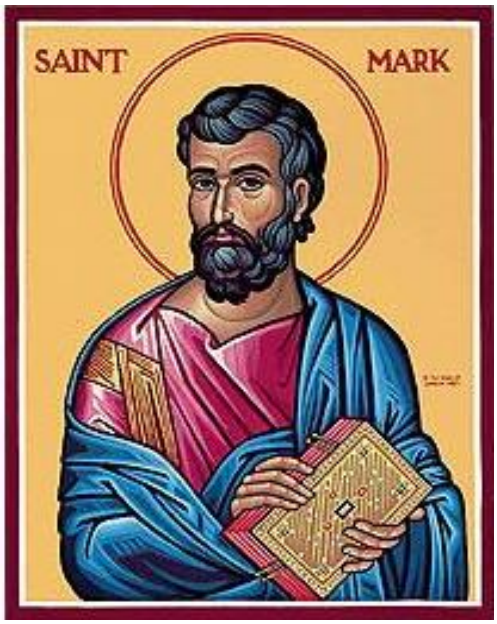
The Place of the burial of St. Mark
St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral

Alexandria, Egypt

98. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. MARK (68 AD)

Later Burial: St. Mark's Basilica, Venice, Italy. Google Earth Coordinates: 45° 26' 4" N, 12° 20' 23" E

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." John 12:24 (KJV 2016)



St. Mark was buried in Alexandria, Egypt, in the church of St. Mark. However, in the year 828 AD, 2 Venetian merchants helped by 2 Greek monks took the bones of St. Mark as the area was under the control of Islamic Abbasid Caliphate. They smuggled the bones of St. Mark out and hid them under a layer of pork meat and cabbage leaves. They brought the relics of St. Mark to Venice and then built the Basilica of St. Mark to house his relics. It is a fabulously richly decorated church as the merchants of Venice were renowned for their wealth and was nicknamed "The Church of Gold". Now both churches in Alexandria and Venice now have relics of St. Mark to remember the life of this amazing man of God who was the Bishop of Alexandria and wrote the Gospel of Mark.

St. Mark's Basilica, Venice, Italy and Piazza San Marco

Tomb of St. Mark inside the Basilica of St. Mark, Venice, Italy

The Beautiful Domed Interior of the Basilica of St. Mark

98

John 12:24

Egyptian Christians

The Place of the burial of St. Mark

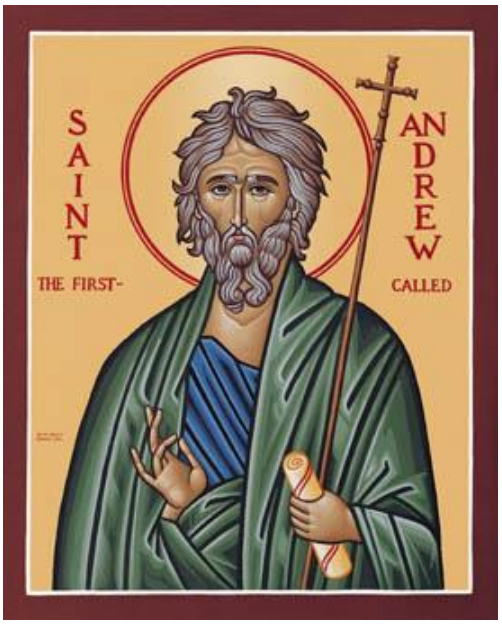
St. Mark's Basilica

Venice, Italy

99. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. ANDREW (69 AD)

Place of Death: Patras, Greece. Google Earth Coordinates: 38°14'32.30"N, 21°43'38.48"E

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. Matthew 10:1-4 (KJV 2016)



Andrew was the brother of Peter and the son of Jonah and was from the town of Bethsaida. In the Gospel of John, Andrew is recorded as being the first disciple to be called and who brought his brother to Jesus. According to Eusebius, after the ascension of Jesus, Andrew preached the gospel in Scythia (what is today Southern Russia). As well, the Chronicle of Nestor (10th Century) stated that he preached the gospel along the Black Sea and the Dnieper River as far as Kiev. He became patron Saint of Ukraine, Romania, Russia and Scotland. According to tradition, he founded the See of Byzantium (modern day Istanbul) in 38 AD. According to Hippolytus of Rome, Andrew preached in Thrace. As well, he went to Achaia and was finally crucified on an X-shaped cross in the city of Patras in Achaia in approximately 69 AD. Although In 1964 the Pope ordered that the relics of St. Andrew be transferred back to Greece.

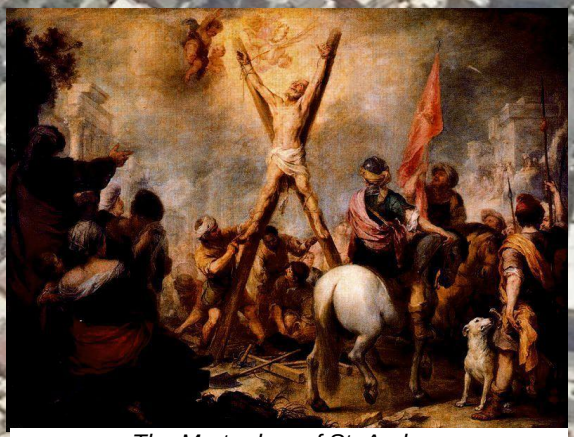
Relics of St. Andrew's Cross, Patras

Cathedral of Saint Andrew, Patras, Greece

The beautiful Interior of the Cathedral

99

Matthew 10:1-4



The Martyrdom of St. Andrew

Where St. Andrew was crucified

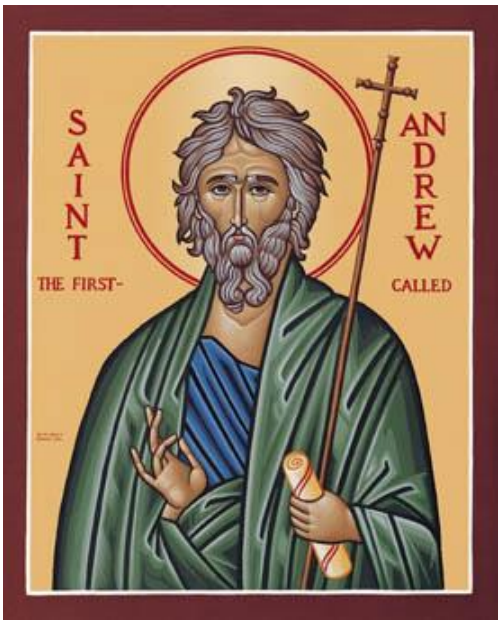
Cathedral of St. Andrew

Patras, Greece

100. EVIDENCE FOR THE BURIAL OF ST. ANDREW (69 AD)

Place of Burial: Patras. Greece. Google Earth Coordinates: 38°14'32.62"N. 21°43'40.33"E

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." John 12:24 (KJV 2016)



According to tradition, the Apostle Andrew, brother of St. Peter, preached the gospel in the areas to the North of the Black Sea and in various parts of Greece. He went up the Dnieper River as far as Kiev, the capital of Ukraine. After years of fruitful ministry for the Lord Jesus, the Proconsul of Achaia, Aegeates, came to Andrew at Patras, Greece. Aegeates came to put an end to the Christian movement in his province. He confronted Andrew and told him to abandon the superstitions about Jesus which Rome had abolished and that he never teach those things again or else face crucifixion. To this Andrew replied: “I would not preach the honor and glory of the cross if I feared the death of the cross.” With these words St. Andrew sealed his fate – he was condemned by the proconsul. Upon seeing the cross St. Andrew said: “O cross!” he declared, “O cross most welcome and long anticipated! I come to you with a willing mind, with joy and desire. Since I am a follower and a student of the One who died on you, I have always loved you and sought to embrace you.” Then Roman soldiers beat Andrew, then tied him to a X-shaped cross where he survived for 4 whole days preaching with a smile to a crowd of almost 20,000. Then he died and his body was taken by Stratocles and Maximilla, a leading woman in Achaia, who prepared Andrew’s body with spices and placed it in her own tomb. Today the relics of St. Andrew, including his skull, are in the Church of St. Andrew, Patras, Greece, along with the pieces of the cross on which he was crucified. This is a very important site for the Greek Orthodox believers whose faith is fruit of the life of St. Andrew.

The skull of St. Andrew

St. Andrew’s relics (small finger, top of skull) in Patras

Relics of St. Andrew's Cross, Patras

100

John 12:24

Greek Christians

Where St. Andrew was buried

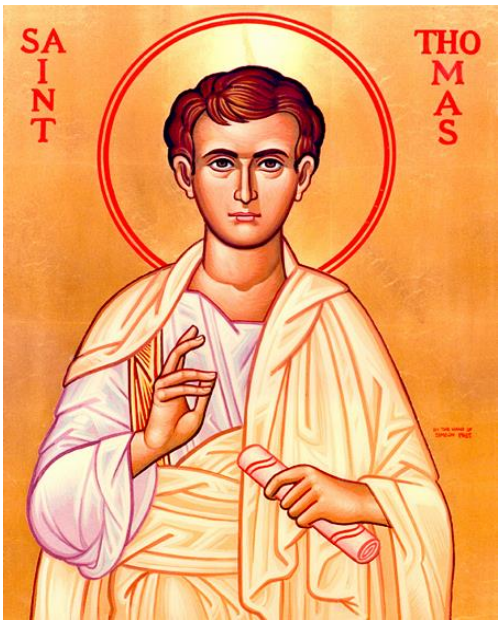
Cathedral of St. Andrew

Patras, Greece

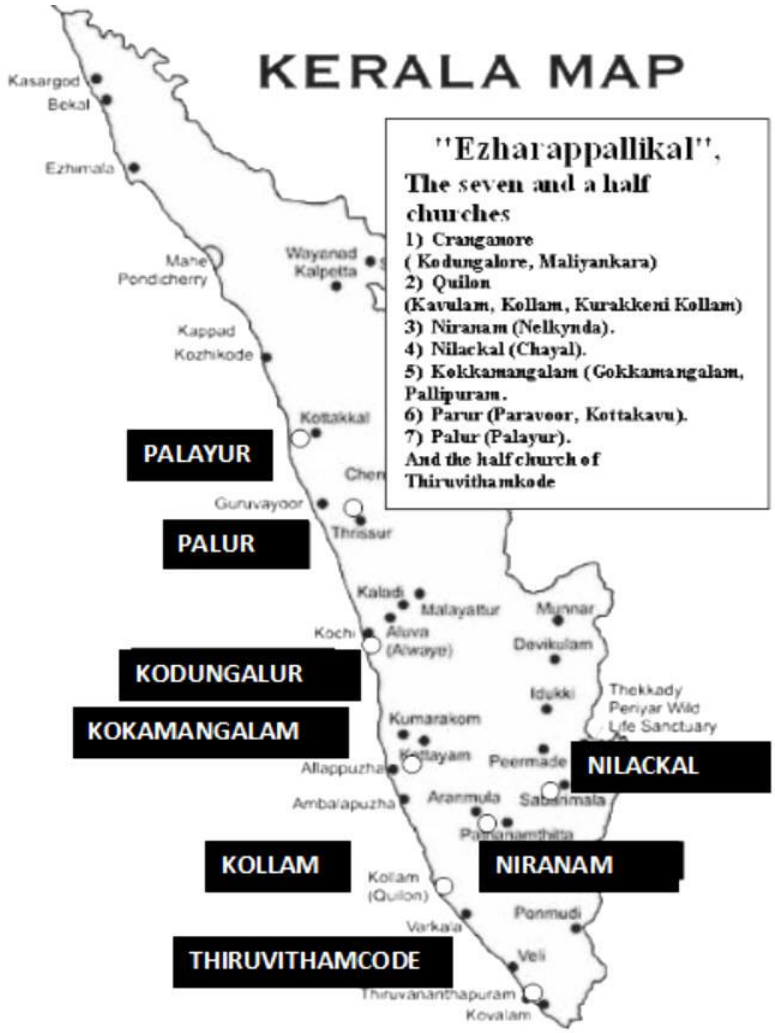
101. EVIDENCE FOR THE LIFE, DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. THOMAS (72 AD)

Place of Death: St. Thomas Mount National Shrine, Chennai, India. Google Earth Coordinates: 13° 0'18.20"N, 80°11'35.90"E

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. Matthew 10:1-4 (KJV 2016)



Thomas, also called Didymus, was famous among the apostles because he would not believe in the resurrection of Jesus without touching Jesus' side and hands. After seeing Jesus, he gave a declaration of the deity of Jesus by saying "My Lord and My God!". After travelling for years possibly bringing the gospel to the Parthians, according to Origen, he came to India in 52 AD and landed at the port of Muziris (modern-day North Paravur, Kerala, India) where there was a synagogue of the Jews. Thomas spent 10 years in Kerala state, establishing 7 churches, then went to Mylapore in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. According to the Acts of St. Thomas, the Kingdom of Mazdai, in the Southern India, was ruled by King Misdeus. The King was infuriated when St. Thomas converted his wife, Queen Tertia, son Juzanes, sister-in-law and her friend Markia. Misdeus led St. Thomas outside the city and ordered four soldiers to take him to the nearby hill, where the soldiers speared St. Thomas and killed him in 72 AD. Altogether his mission to India lasted 20 years and many people were brought to Christ.



Martyrdom site on St.Thomas Mount National Shrine

Interior of St. Thomas National Mount Shrine

101

Matthew 10:1-4

The Martyrdom of St. Thomas

Where St. Thomas was Martyred

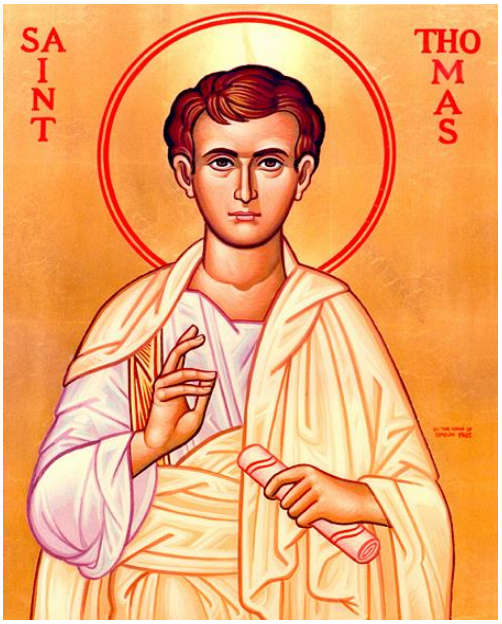
St. Thomas Mount National Shrine

Chennai, India

102. EVIDENCE FOR THE LIFE, DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. THOMAS (72 AD)

Place of Burial: San Thome Basilica, Chennai, India. Google Earth Coordinates: 13° 2'0.92"N, 80°16'40.03"E

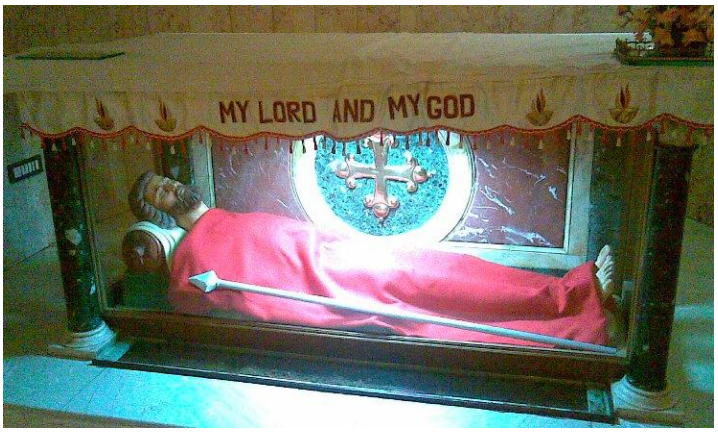
Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." John 12:24 (KJV 2016)



The Apostle Thomas, also called Didymus, the twin, founded 7 and a half churches in Kerala, a state on the West Coast of India. He was killed by order of King Misdeus and his body was buried in Chennai in the first century in the place where the Santhomes Cathedral Basilica stands today. In the 10th century AD, a group of Christians from Persia founded the village of San Thomes and built a church around the site of his grave. However, the structure fell into disrepair in the 14th-15th centuries. Then in 1522 Portuguese Christians moved the apostles' remains to a new tomb and church in the same general area. Now the San Thome church is called a Basilica and is a place of pilgrimage for many Indian Christians.

The Beautiful interior of San Thome Basilica

The San Thome Basilica in Mylapore, Chennai



The tomb of Saint Thomas in Mylapore, Chennai

102

John 12:24

Indian Christians

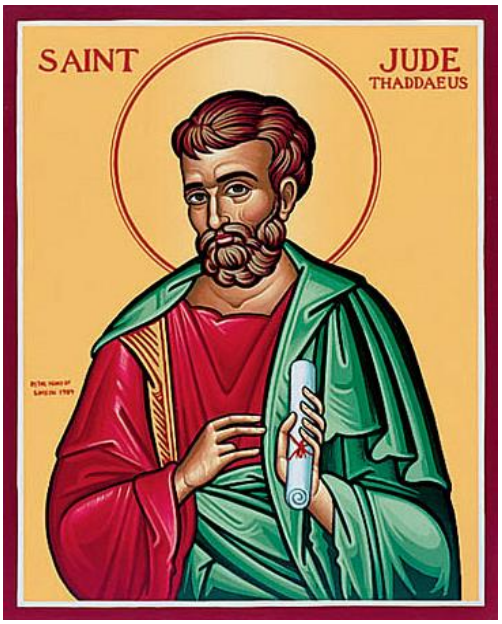
Where St. Thomas is Buried

San Thome Basilica

Mylapore, Chennai, India

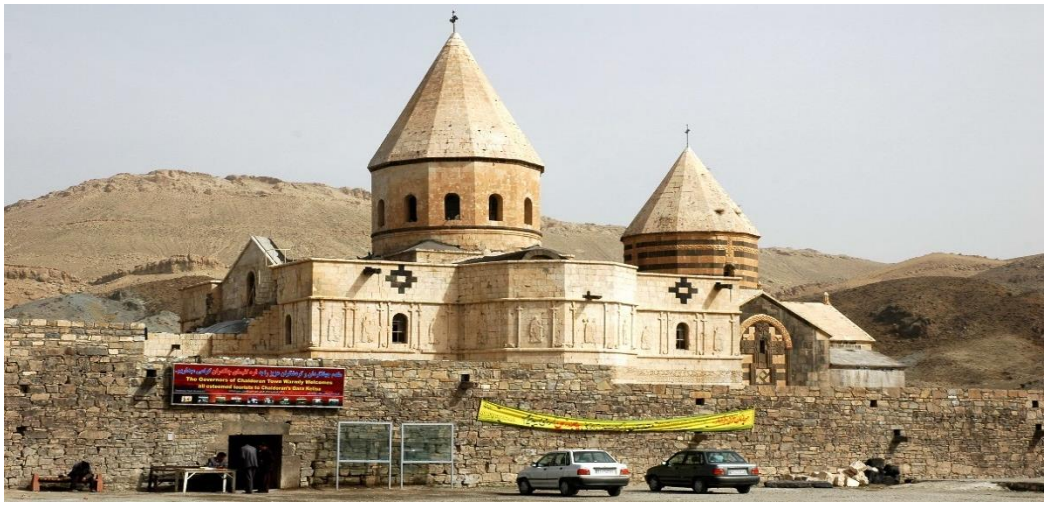
103. EVIDENCE FOR THE LIFE, DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. THADDAEUS (66 AD)

Place of Death and Burial: Qareh Kelisa, Iran. Google Earth Coordinates: 39° 5'32.00"N. 44°32'40.00"E

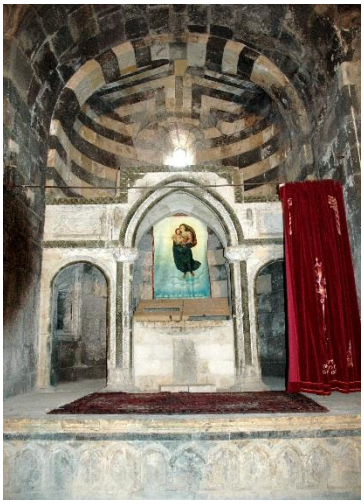


And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. Matthew 10:1-4 (KJV 2016)

Lebbaeus Thaddeus was a disciple who is also identified as Jude by many traditions. According to Armenian tradition, the Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew came to Armenia in 45 AD to bring the gospel to its people in present-day Iran. The ancient Christian historian Moses of Khorene recounts that Thaddeus converted King Abgar the Fifth of Edessa. After his death, the Armenian kingdom was split into two parts. His son Ananun crowned himself in Edessa, while his nephew Sanatruk ruled in Armenia. About AD 66, Ananun gave the order to kill St. Thaddeus in Edessa by club. The king's daughter Sandokht, who had converted to Christianity, was also martyred with Thaddeus. The place of martyrdom and burial is at Qareh Kelisa, Iran. Later a church was built near his grave which many say is the oldest lasting church structure in the world. The present structure dates from the early 19th century, around a 13th century building and that was built upon an older structure going back to the first century. Thousands of Christians gather annually near the church to worship and remember the life of Saint Thaddeus or Jude, the Patron saint of Iran and the Armenians. He is also known as the Patron Saint of Lost Causes.



The Cathedral of Qareh Kelisa



Inside Qareh Kelisa

Tomb of Thaddeus, Qareh Kelisa, Iran

103

Matthew 10:1-4

The Martyrdom of Thaddeus

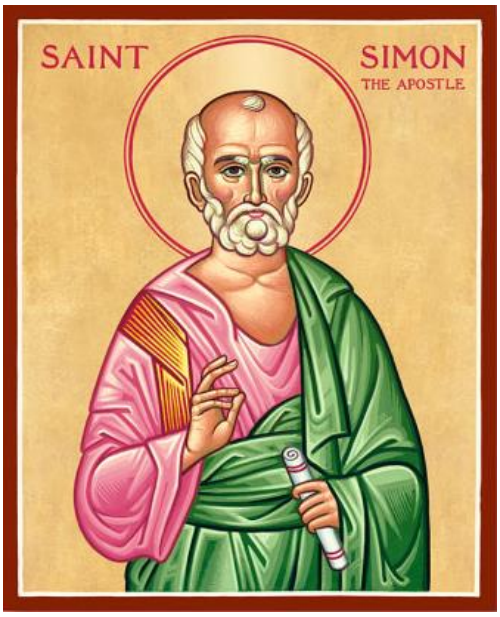
Iranian Christians in House Church

The Cathedral and Tomb of St. Thaddeus

Qareh Kelisa, Iran

104. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH OF ST. SIMON THE CANANITE (ZEALOT) (74 AD)

Place of Death: New Athos, Georgia. Google Earth Coordinates: 43° 5'25.84"N, 40°48'58.68"E



And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. Matthew 10:1-4 (KJV 2016)

Simon the Zealot was a disciple of Jesus Christ who was either zealous for God with a strong fervor or could have been part of a group called the Kanaa'im who were zealous for the law of Moses. There is not much else written about Simon the Zealot in the New Testament, except in John 14:22 where he said: "The Foxes' Book of Martyrs from the 16th Century maintains that Simon preached the gospel in Mauritania, Africa and Britain (possibly Glastonbury) and holds that Simon was martyred in Britain, possibly in Caistor, Lincolnshire, England. Ethiopian Christians believe that he was crucified in Samaria. Justus Lipsius in the 16th Century AD claimed that he was sawn in half longitudinally in Suanir, Persia. However, the oldest account is from Moses of Chorene in the 5th Century AD wrote that he was stoned to death at Weriosphora in Caucasian Iberia at the Church of New Athos in Georgia. The site of his martyrdom by Orthodox tradition was the Psirju River near St. Simon the Cananite Church. Next to the river are stones with red coloration where legend has it that Simon the Cananite's blood became infused in the rocks. Pilgrims come and often take stones at the site for blessing and are baptized in the river. Saint Simon is buried within the Monstery of St. Simon the Cananite in New Athos, Abkhazskaya, Georgia. Relics of St. Simon are also found in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome.

Saint Simon the Cananite Church, New Athos, Georgia

The Psirju River, site of St. Simon's Stoning

Stones along the Psirju River with Red Coloration

104

Matthew 10:1-4

Martyrdom of St. Simon the Canaanite

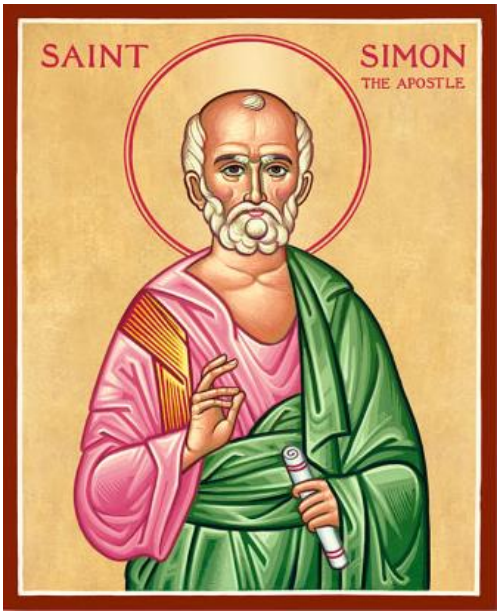
Site of St. Simon the Canaanite Stoning
Church of St. Simon the Canaanite

New Athos, Georgia

105. EVIDENCE FOR THE BURIAL OF ST. SIMON THE CANANITE (74 AD)

Place of Burial: New Athos, Georgia. Google Earth Coordinates: 43° 5'17.16"N, 40°49'16.31"E

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." John 12:24 (KJV 2016)



The site of the martyrdom of St. Simon the Cananite by Orthodox tradition was the Psirju River near St. Simon the Cananite Church. Next to the river are stones with red coloration where legend has it that Simon the Cananite's blood became infused in the rocks. Pilgrims come and often take stones at the site for blessing and are baptized in the river. Saint Simon is buried within the Monstery of St. Simon the Cananite in New Athos, Abkhazskaya, Georgia. Relics of St. Simon are also found in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome. Christians in Georgia are fruit of the life and death of the Apostle Simon the Cananite.

Monastery of St. Simon the Canaanite, New Athos, Georgia

Beautiful Artwork on the domed ceilings and walls

105

John 12:42

Georgian Christians

Place of Burial of St. Simon the Cananite

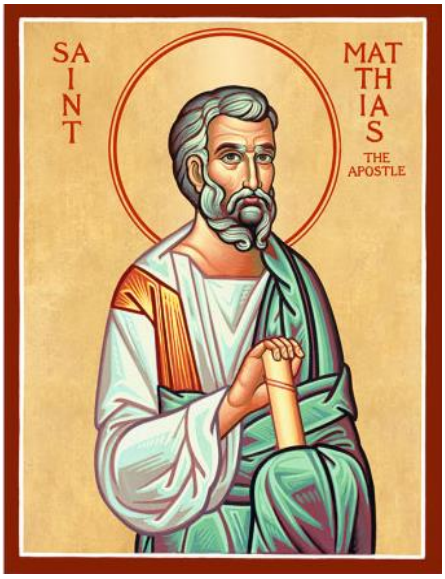
Monastery of St. Simon the Cananite

New Athos, Georgia

106. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH OF ST. MATTHIAS (80 AD)

Place of Initial Burial of St. Matthias: Gonio Fortress, Adjara, Lazica, Georgia. Google Earth Coordinates: 41°34'23.43"N, 41°34'24.72"E

And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles. Acts 1:23-26 (KJV 2016)



Matthias was chosen by the apostles to replace Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus and then committed suicide. Greek tradition states that Matthias planted the faith near Cappadocia (modern-day central Turkey), and on the coasts of the Caspian Sea. According to church historian Nicephorus, Matthew first preached the gospel in Judea, then in Aethiopia (modern-day Georgia) and was taken to the Gonio Fortress, tortured, then martyred somewhere on these grounds. The grave of St. Matthias is located in the Fortress of Gonio in modern-day Georgia. Excavations of the site are not permitted at present.

The Current Grave of St. Matthias

The Gravestone of St. Matthias

Gonio Fortress, Adjara, Lazica, Georgia

The Former Grave of St. Matthias in Gonio Fortress, Georgia

106

Acts 1:23-26

Martyrdom of St. Matthias

Place of Death & Burial of Saint Matthias

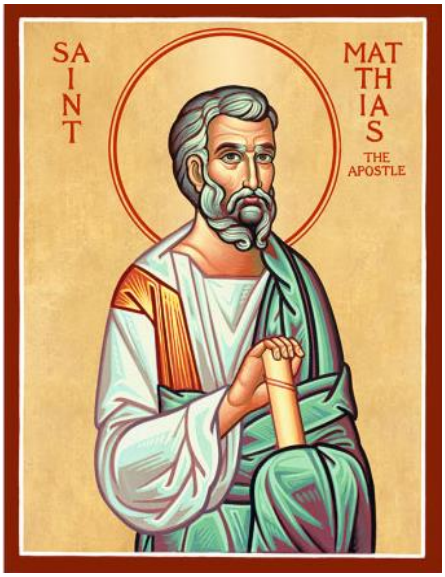
Gonio Fortress

Adjara, Lazica, Georgia

107. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. MATTHIAS (80 AD)

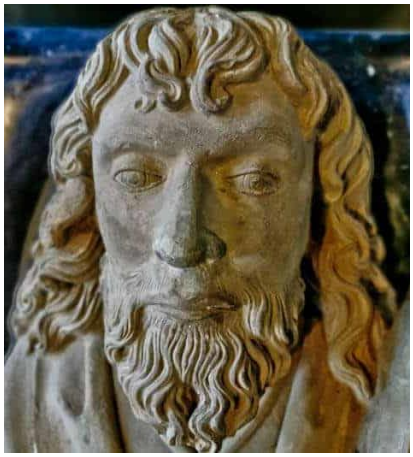
Place of Re-burial: Abbey of St. Matthias, Trier, Germany. Google Earth Coordinates: 49°44'17.67"N, 6°37'55.20"E

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." John 12:24 (KJV 2016)



The initial grave of St. Matthias is located in the Fortress of Gonio in modern-day Georgia. Excavations of the site are not permitted at present. In the 4th Century, the Empress Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, is said to have brought the bones of St. Matthias out of the grave and brought them to Trier, Germany, where they were interred in the Abbey of St. Matthias. The church has been given the status of a Basilica minor and German pilgrims make the trip to be near the remains of the Apostle who replaced Judas as one of the twelve folllowers of Jesus Christ.

This effigy of St. Matthias is in the Abbey of St. Matthias, Trier, Germany



The Intricately Carved Face of St. Mathias

Abbey of St. Matthias, Trier, Germany

The Relics of St. Matthias inside Sarcophagus are kept in the basement of the Abbey

107

John 12:42

German Christians

Georgian Christians

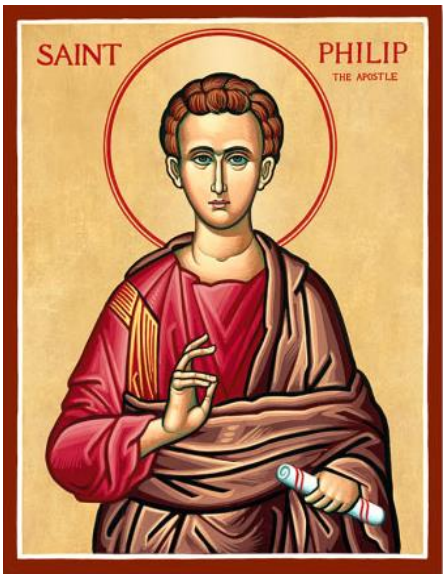
Place of Burial of Saint Matthias

Abbey of St. Matthias

Trier, Germany

108. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. PHILIP (80 AD)

Place of Death and Initial Burial: Pammukale, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 37° 55'51.53"N, 29° 7'51.09"E
Place of Burial: Church of Santi Apostoli, Rome, Italy. Google Earth Coordinates: 41° 53' 53.18" N, 12° 28' 59.54" E

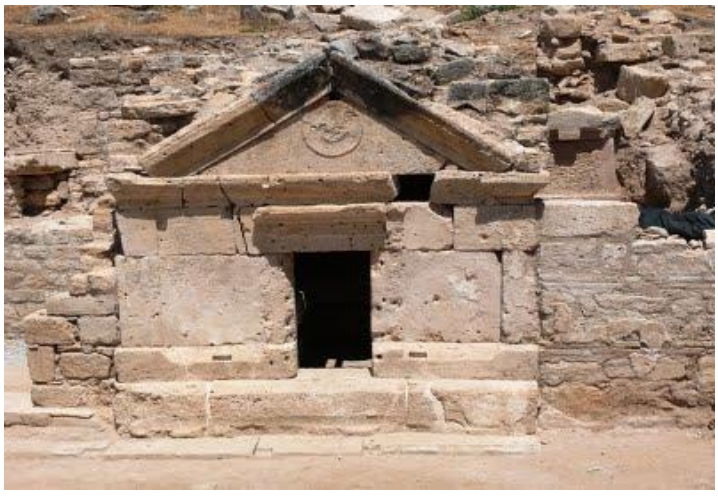


And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. Matthew 10:1-4 (KJV 2016)

Philip came from the town of Bethsaida as did Peter and Andrew. He was the one who introduced Nathanael to Jesus. He also asked Jesus how to feed 5,000 people and asks Jesus to show him the Father in the upper room. He is not to be confused with Philip the evangelist. After the ascension of Jesus, some histories record that Philip, his sister Mariamne and Bartholomew brought the gospel to Greece, Phrygia and Syria. In the Acts of Philip, we read that Philip was martyred at Hierapolis, in modern-day Turkey. In this account, we read that through a miraculous healing, the wife of the Proconsul of Hierapolis believed. This enraged the Proconsul who had Philip, Bartholomew and Mariamne all tortured. Philip and Bartholomew were then crucified upside-down and Philip preached from his cross. As a result of his preaching, the crowd released Bartholomew from his cross, but Philip insisted that they not release him, so he died as a result of crucifixion in 80 AD. During the 6th Century the bones of Philip were transferred to Rome. Now St. Philip's bones are in the crypt within the Church of Santi Apostoli in Rome, Italy.

The Skull of Philip inside crypt at the Santi Apostoli Church in Rome, Italy

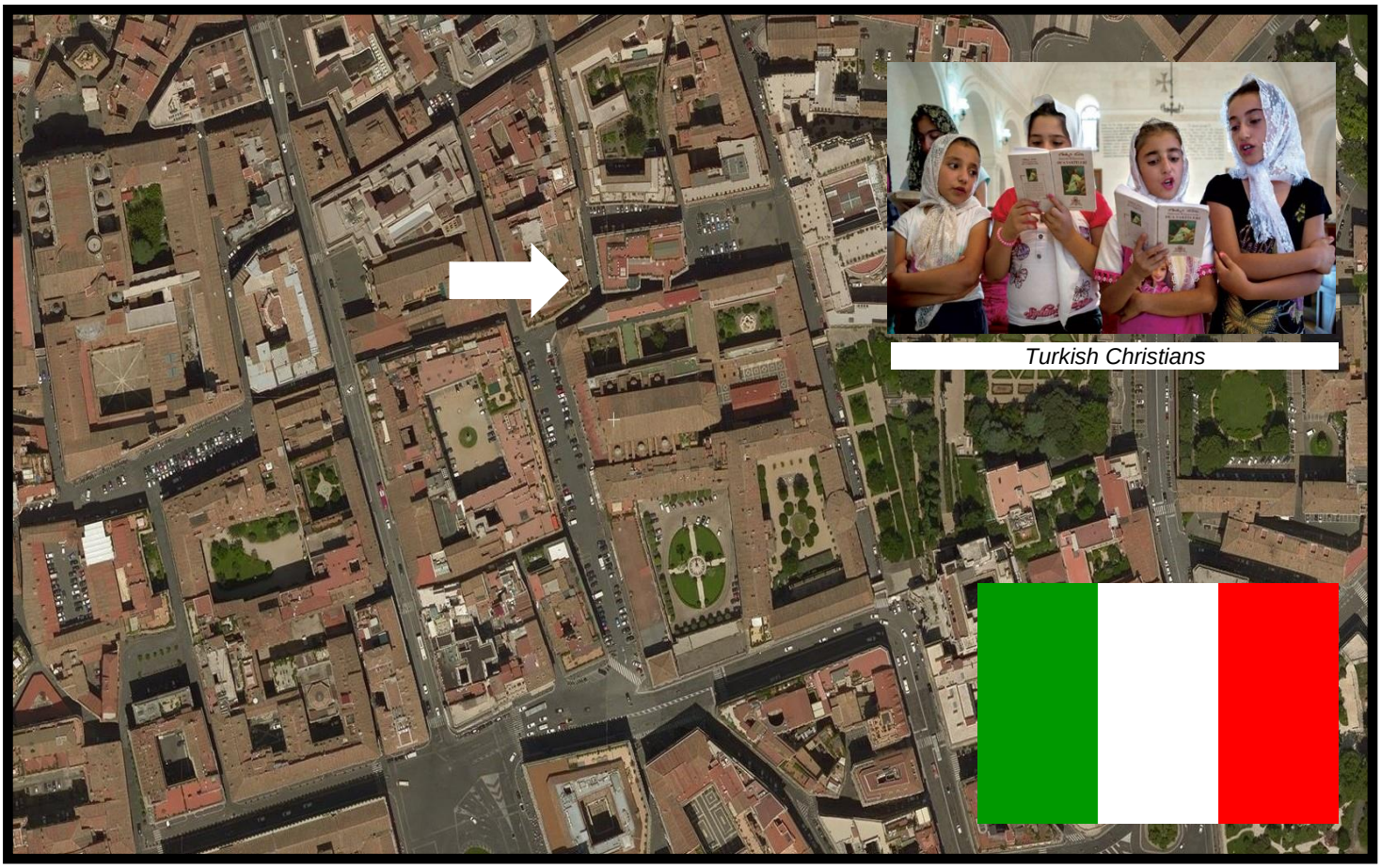
The Martyrium of Philip at Hieropolis



The Tomb of Philip in Pammakule

St. Philip's execution

Martyrium of Philip in Hierapolis, now Pammukale, Turkey



Turkish Christians

Church of Santi Apostoli, Rome, Italy

109. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. LUKE (84 AD)

Place of Initial Burial: Chapel of St. Luke, Thiva, Greece. Google Earth Coordinates: 38°18'54.30"N, 23°19'24.81"E
Place of Re-burial: Basilica of St. Justina, Padua, Italy. Google Earth Coordinates: 45°23'47"N, 11°52 47"E

Luke, the beloved physician and Demas greet you. Colossians 4:14 (KJV 2016)

Luke, the doctor, was the first church historian and probably a Gentile (Colossians 4:10-11) and was a companion of the Apostle Paul and travelled with him on his missionary journeys even to Rome itself by the and of the Acts of the Apostles around 61AD. He remained faithful and steadfast, serving alongside the Apostle Paul right until Paul's execution. He was an incredible historian and his descriptions in the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles have proven to be amazingly accurate in minute detail. Sir William Ramsay, an archaeologist who was knighted for his work, declared "Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy... [he] should be placed along with the very greatest of historians." He travelled extensively in Palestine, Syria, Asia Minor, Italy and Greece. Very early tradition holds that he died peacefully in Thebes, modern Thiva, in Greece in the year 84 AD. His remains were buried in a tomb that is now located in St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Thiva, Greece, in the Orthodox tradition.

St. Luke the Evangelist Church, Thiva, Greece

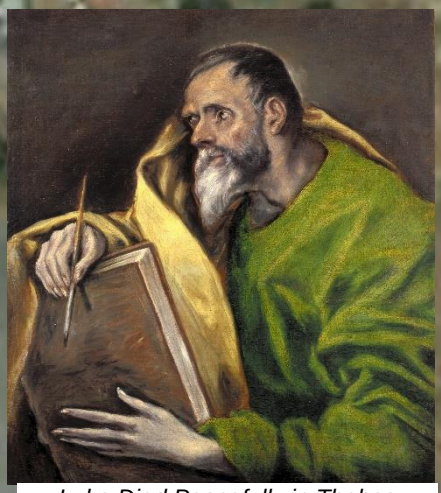
The Tomb of St. Luke

St. Luke the Evangelist Church, Thiva, Greece

The Tomb of St. Luke which now contains only a rib bone

109

Colossians 4:1



Luke Died Peacefully in Thebes

Anapafseos

Oplarchigou Vogkli

Moschopodiou

Koimitirio Thivai

Moschopodiou

Dionysodorou

Place of death and burial of St. Luke

St. Luke the Evangelist Church

Thiva, Greece

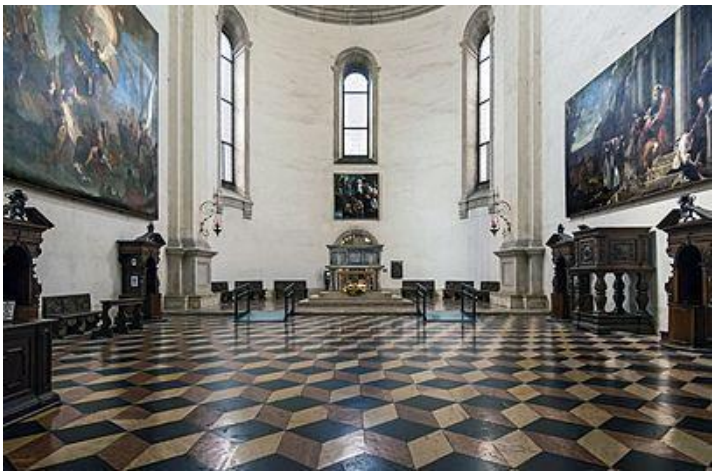
110. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. LUKE (84 AD)

Place of Initial Burial: Chapel of St. Luke, Thiva, Greece. Google Earth Coordinates: 38°18'54.30"N, 23°19'24.81"E

Luke, the beloved physician and Demas greet you. Colossians 4:14 (KJV 2016)

The remains of Dr.. Luke, the saint, were buried in a tomb in Thiva, Greece. Then in the year 338 AD St. Luke's remains were transferred to Constantinople by Constantine. They were placed in the Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople. The church later burned down yet the coffin of St. Luke remained undamaged by the fire. Then in 527 AD the Emperor Justinian rebuilt the church and placed a shrine around the tomb of St. Luke. Next, before the year 1177 AD, a coffin made out of lead with the image of the 3 calf's heads – symbolic of the Gospel of Luke – was transferred from Constantinople to its current resting place – in a marble sarcophagus in Padua, Italy. In 1354, Roman Emperor Charles IV asked for the skull of St. Luke to be removed and taken to Prague. Then in 1998 the marble sarcophagus in Padua was opened and inside was a skeleton (minus the skull) of a man between 70-85 with 2 loose teeth. Radiocarbon dating showed that the man had lived between 72-416 AD. We know that St. Luke died in 84 AD so the gender and time period match. Then a mitochondrial DNA test was done which showed that the remains were of a man who was from Syrian descent, which is true of Luke as he was from Antioch. Finally, in 2000, the Catholic Bishop of Padua, Bishop Mattiazzo sent a rib from the skeletal remains to put in the empty tomb of St. Luke in Thebes. So we can confirm that the remains are most likely those of the Evangelist, Church historian and physician, St. Luke.

Abbey of St. Justina, Padua, Italy which houses relics of Luke



Interior of Abbey of St. Justina, Padua, Italy

The Reliquary of St. Luke inside the church at Padua

110

Colossians 4:1

Greek Christians

Via Cavazzana

Via Giuseppe Ferrari

Place of final burial of St. Luke

Abbey of St. Justina

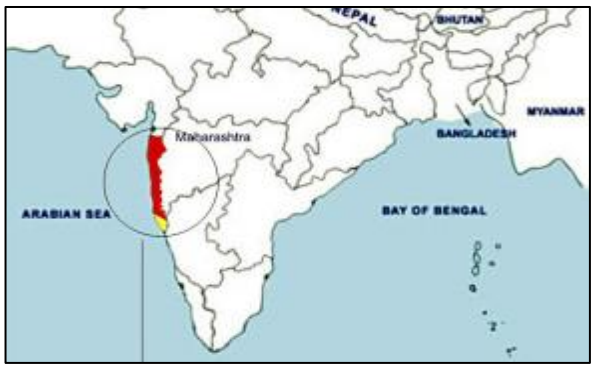
Padua, Italy

111. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW (80-100 AD)

Place of Death and Burial: Albayrak Bucagi, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 38° 8'59.92"N, 44°12'46.56"E

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. Matthew 10:1-4 (KJV 2016)

Bartholomew, whom many believe was also called Nathanael, was born in Cana of Galilee and seems to always be mentioned along with the disciple Philip. After the ascension of Jesus, some histories record that Bartholomew, Philip and his sister Mariamne brought the gospel to Greece, Phrygia and Syria. Eusebius of Caesarea recounts how Bartholomew brought the gospel to India's Konkan coast to the ancient city of Kalyan. Here he left behind a copy of Matthew's gospel and translated it into their language. In the Acts of Philip, we read that Bartholomew, Philip and Mariamne were all tortured in Hierapolis because the Proconsul of Hierapolis' wife became a Christian through a miraculous healing. Bartholomew and Philip were then crucified upside-down. Philip preached the gospel from his cross and as a result of his preaching, the crowd released Bartholomew from his cross, but Philip insisted that they not release him, so he died as a result of crucifixion in 80 AD. Following this incident, he went to preach the gospel along with the Apostle Thaddeus in present-day Armenia. He brought the gospel to the King of Armenia, King Polymius, who became a Christian, and resulted in the King's brother Astyages condemning Bartholomew to death. According to tradition he was skinned alive then crucified upside down in the ancient city of Albanopolis in Armenia between 80-100 AD. The Arsacid King Sanatruk who was healed by God of leprosy through the ministry of Saint Bartholomew built a church around the site of Bartholomew's martyrdom in the 1st century. The monastery was completed in the 13th century and was a major place of pilgrimage for Armenian Christians as Bartholomew is the Patron saint of Armenia. Sadly during the Armenian genocide following World War One the monastery was partially destroyed and is now half-ruined. In the year 983, the bones of Bartholomew were transferred to the Isle of Tiber in Rome and a basilica set up to preserve his remains was built called the Church of St. Bartholomew-in-the-Island in Rome.



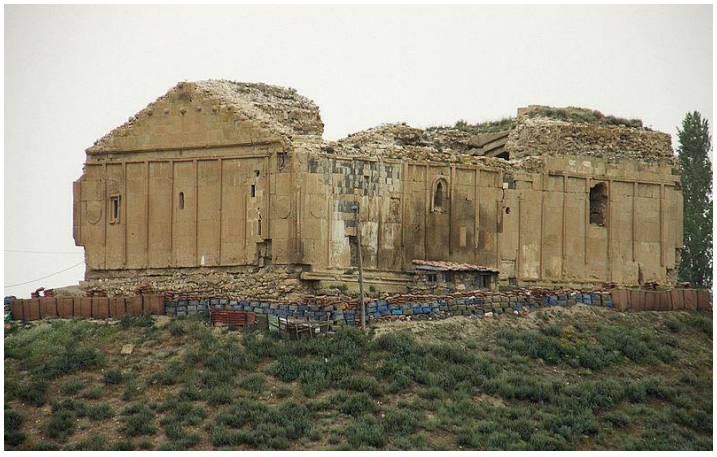
India's Konkan Coast

Areas where Bartholomew preached the gospel:

- *Greece*
- *Phrygia*
- *Syria*
- *Central India*
- *Armenia*
- *Kush*

St. Bartholomew's Mission to Armenia

Monastery of Saint Bartholomew (Early 1900s)



Ruins of the Monastery in 2009

Armenian Christians

Martyrdom of St. Bartholomew

Church of St. Bartholomew-in-the-Island, Rome, Italy

112. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE PLACE OF THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST TO ST. JOHN

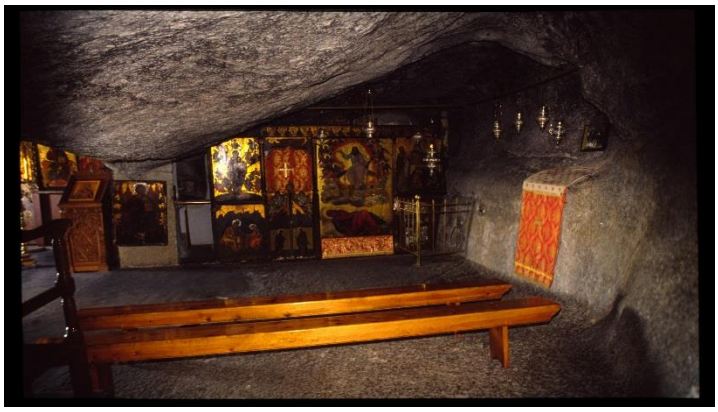
Skala, Patmos, Greece. Google Earth Coordinates: 37°18'51.51"N, 26°32'38.92"E

I John, who am also your brother and companion in tribulation and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. Revelation 1:9 (KJV 2016)

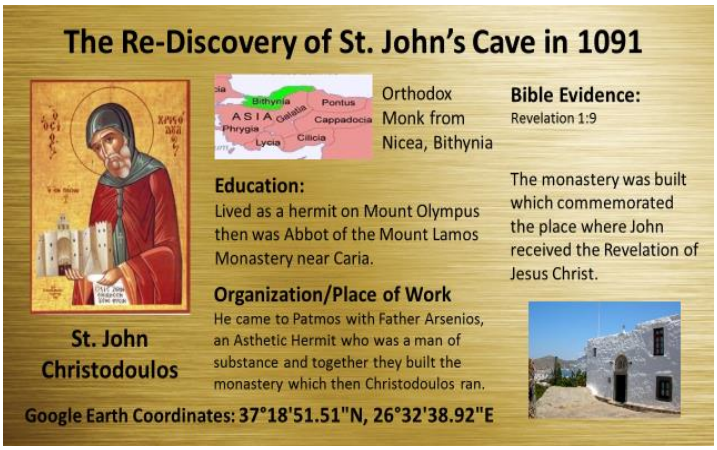
In the second century, following the death of the Apostle John, a number of Christian basilicas were erected. In 300-350 AD, a Grand Royal Basilica was erected on the same site as the Monastery of St. John. In Muslim raids from the 7th to the 9th centuries, the Basilica was destroyed. Then in the year 1088, Father John Christodoulos of Nicea, came to the deserted Island of Patmos and had the Monastery of St. John the Theologian built on the same site as the Byzantine ruins. As well, a cave was identified as the place where St. John received the Revelation. The monastery was built in 1091 and St. John Christodoulos died two years later in 1093.

Beautiful Island of Patmos, Greece

Holy Cave of the Apocalypse of St. John, Patmos



Inside the Cave of the Apocalypse



Monastery of St. John the Theologian, Patmos

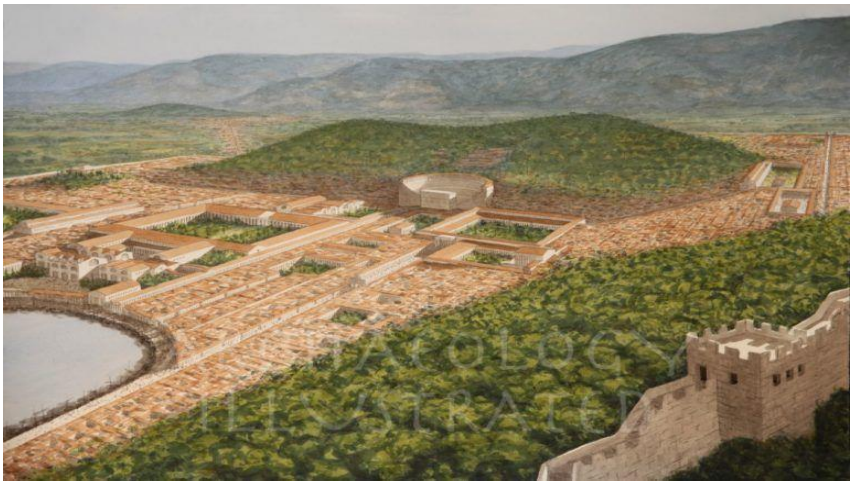
112
Revelation 1:9
Cave of the Apocalypse
Skala, Patmos, Greece

113. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS

Selçuk, İzmir Province, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 37°56'19.15"N, 27°20'27.90"E

To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands: "I know your works, your labor, your endurance, and how you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have endurance, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; and repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you suddenly and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. But you have this, that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."' Revelation 2:1-7

As Christians came under extreme persecution following the birth of the church at Pentecost, believers moved out from Judea to other parts of the Roman Empire bringing the gospel. Ephesus was a very strategic place as it was a very large port city of about 250,000 and many came through to visit the enormous Temple of Artemis and to buy and sell. It was to the ancient world what New York City is today. The disciple John came to Ephesus and became founder of the church there as he cared for Mary the Mother of Jesus until her death. Then Paul the Apostle came through and preached the gospel in the Lecture Hall of Tyrannus and won many over to Jesus Christ. The church grew and new converts burned their books on magic arts. The belief in pagan gods was losing its power to faith in Jesus Christ. This so affected the sale of silver images of Diana that the silversmiths were in danger of losing their trade. After an uprising in the theatre of Ephesus over this incident, the people calmed down and the church continued to grow under Paul's leadership. He then appointed Timothy as Bishop of the church of Ephesus. For a few decades under the leadership of the apostles the church was doing well, but by the close of the first century, Jesus tells the church that although they had kept faithful in church doctrine they had left their first love and needed to repent and get back to loving God and loving others such as rescuing abandoned babies and such as Jesus had commanded.

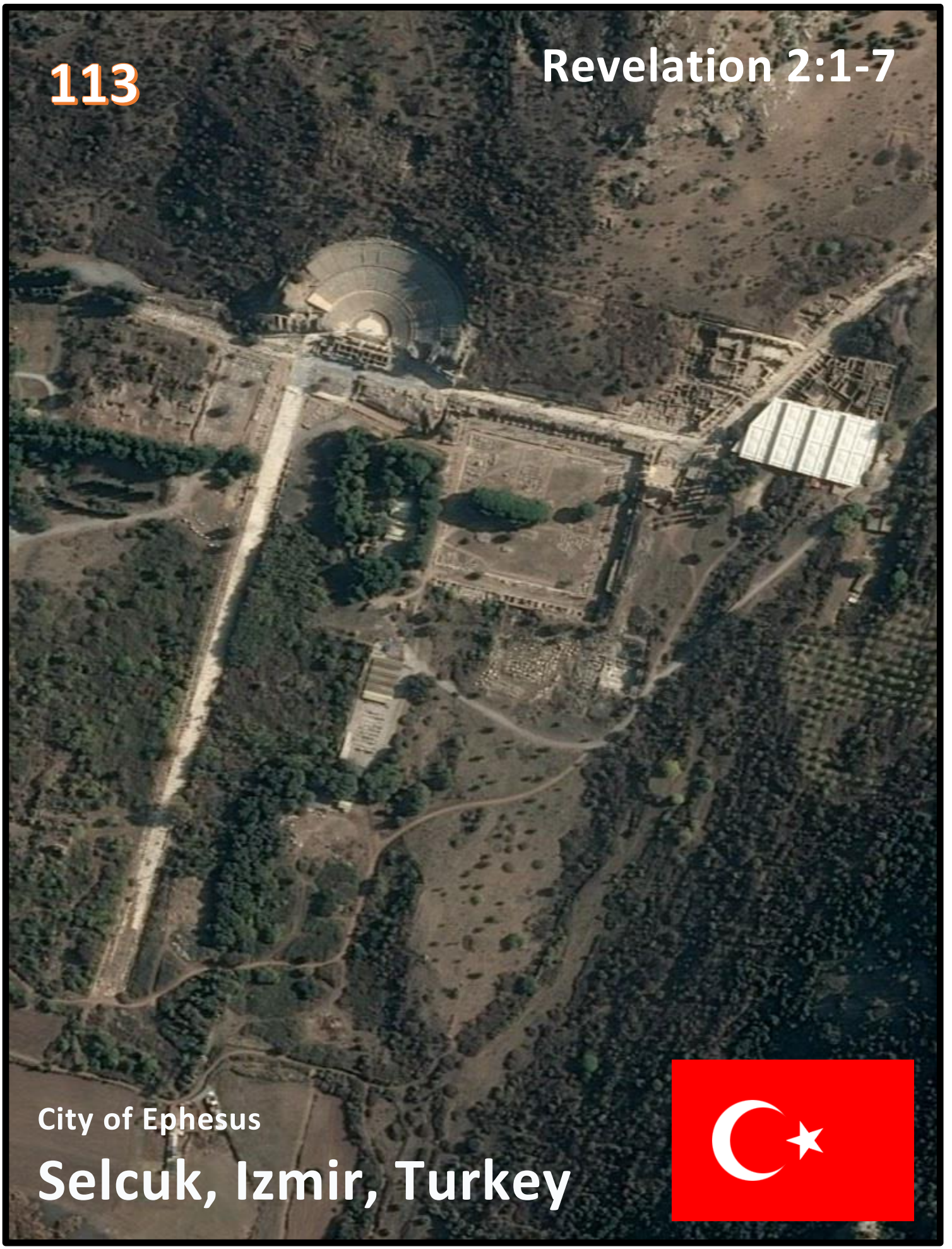


Reconstruction of Ephesus in the First Century

Lecture Hall of Tyrannus may have stood in front of where the Celsus library (above) is today

Basilica of St. John

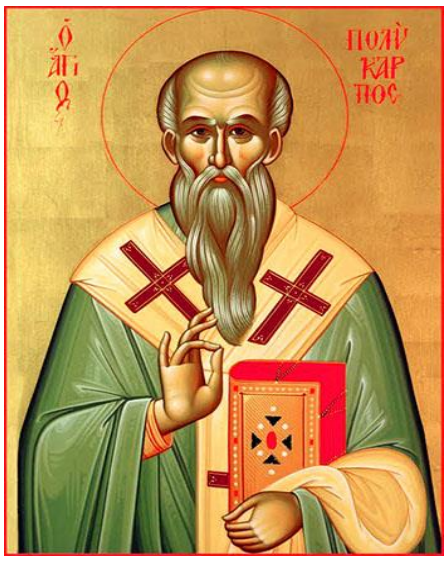
Ruins of Ancient Ephesus


113
Revelation 2:1-7
City of Ephesus
Selcuk, Izmir, Turkey

114. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE CHURCH AT SMYRNA

Selçuk, İzmir Province, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 38°25'7.00"N, 27° 8'21.00"E

"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and is alive: "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will all have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death."' Revelation 2:8-11



St. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna

Smyrna is located 56 km NNE of Ephesus and is on the Aegean Sea where the Hermus River flows into the Gulf of Izmir. Now it is the site of one of the largest cities in Turkey – Izmir. In the first century Smyrna became a center of the cult of Emperor worship as a temple to the deity of Rome was built in the city. Those who refused to worship the Emperor were seen as enemies of the state. The church was suffering intense persecution and was made up of poor people yet who were rich in the eyes of God. About 60 years later, one of these heroes of the faith was a man named Polycarp who had been a disciple of John. He was a man who was devoted to prayer for all the churches. Under the persecution that came to the early church, Polycarp was arrested by the Proconsul in Smyrna in 155 AD. When asked to denounce his faith in Jesus Christ and "swear by the fortune of Caesar", Polycarp stated boldly: "Eighty and six years have I served Christ, nor has He ever done me any harm. How, then, could I blaspheme my King who saved me? I bless Thee for deigning me worthy of this day and this hour that I may be among Thy martyrs and drink the cup of my Lord Jesus Christ." He was then martyred by stabbing because his body would not burn at the stake. Following his example, the church of Christ, although persecuted through the centuries still is alive and well in Turkey.

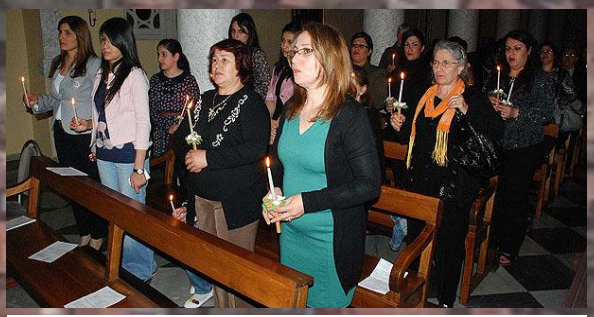
Reconstruction of Smyrna in the First Century

The Agora (Marketplace) of Ancient Smyrna

The Marketplace

114

Revelation 2:8-11



Turkish Christians

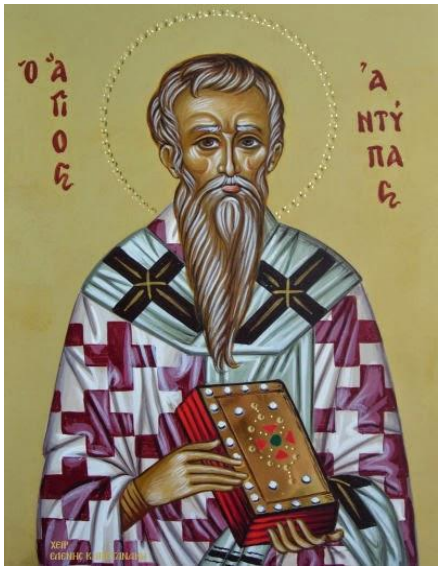
Ruins of Ancient Smyrna

Selçuk, İzmir Province, Turkey

115. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE CHURCH AT PERGAMUM

Bergama, Izmir Province, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 39° 7'57.00"N, 27°11'3.00"E

"And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two edged sword: "I know your works, and where you dwell, even where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in those days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have some there who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. And also you have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you suddenly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the hidden manna. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."' Revelation 2:12-17

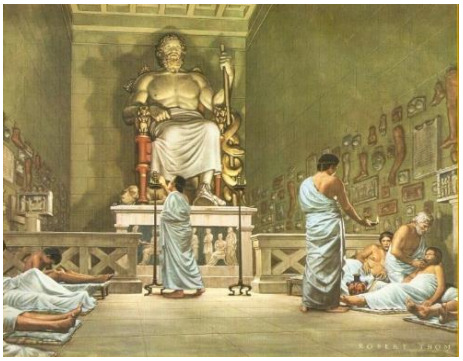


St. Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum

Pergamum is located 24 Km from the Agean sea. Pergamum was the political centre of Asia minor. It was also the capital of emperor worship, where incense was offered to Caesar as the "divine". The Christian martyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum who was ordained by the Apostle John, had exorcised many demons in the city, causing the priests to be afraid of losing business. Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum, was ordered to offer incense in sacrifice to the emperor, declaring that the Emperor was "Lord and God". When he refused, Antipas was put to death by burning in a bull-shaped altar on the Altar of Zeus in 92 AD. This altar was moved and is now on display in the Museum in Berlin. As well, the people of Pergamum worshipped Asclepius, the god of healing, who was often represented as a man with serpents around him. The temple of Asclepius was called the Asclepion and often it was filled with non-venemous snakes who would writhe on top of the person coming in for healing as they slept. Priests of Asclepius believed that Asclepius spoke through the snakes and brought about healing. The symbol of Asclepius was two coiled snakes on a staff (which today is still the symbol of the medical arts). Christians in Pergamum were faced with many difficulties. They could compromise and offer incense to Caesar or they could not offer incense and be more persecuted but truly overcome with Christ Jesus and receive salvation and a white stone For St. Antipas his allegiance was completely to the Lord Jesus Christ. He remained faithful unto death and was a shining light in the darkest of places.

Ancient Pergamum

The Pergamon Pagan Altar which was moved to Berlin, Germany



Patients in the Asklepion First Century

The Martyrdom of Antipas

The Asklepion in Pergamum

115

Revelation 2:12-17

Ruins of Ancient Pergamum

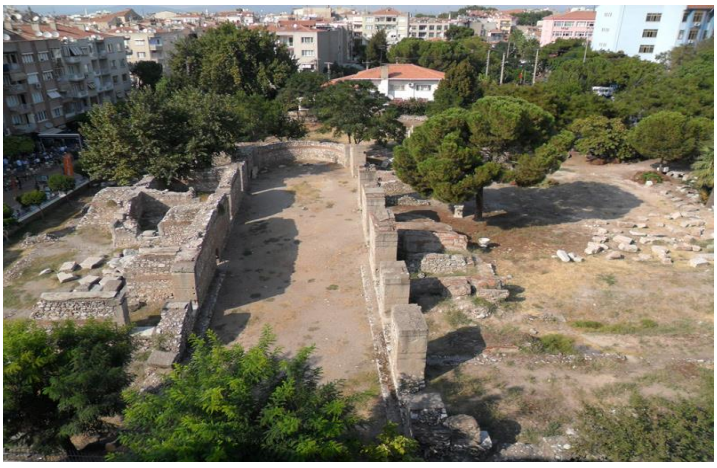
Bergama, Izmir Province, Turkey

116. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE CHURCH AT THYATIRA

Akhisar, Manisa Province, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 38°55'12.19"N, 27°50'11.09"E

"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like fine brass: "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your endurance; and your works, and the last to be more than the first. But I have a few things against you, because you permit that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. Behold, I will throw her into a bed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. I will kill her children with death, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, and who have not known, as they say, the depths of Satan, I will put on you no other burden. But what you already have, hold firmly until I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations: 'He will rule them with a rod of iron; they will be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' just as I have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."' Revelation 2:18-29

Thyatira was about 32 Km Southeast of Pergamum on a valley road between the Hermus and Caicus Rivers. As Thyatira was between the cities of Pergamum and Sardis, it was involved in trade and the selling of manufactured goods by tradespeople such as potters, tanners, metal workers, coppersmiths, weavers, robe makers and dyers. When Jesus mentions fine brass it is interesting as Thyatira was famous for their manufacture of fine brass. Lydia, the first convert in Europe was from Thyatira and sold purple cloth that was manufactured there using dye from the Madder root (*Rubia tinctorum*). All of these tradespeople were part of trade guilds and often these guilds would meet and go to pagan dinners and be involved in sexual immorality. Believers in Thyatira had become corrupted as well. There was a woman in the church who claimed to be a follower of Jesus but was a temptress who led people in the church to commit sexual immorality with her and eat foods sacrificed to idols. The Lord Jesus gave her time to repent but she did not and soon she and those who sinned with her would be judged by God. For those faithful Christians in the church who were not part of this, Jesus told them to hold firmly to their faith in Christ until His return. Excavations performed in 1974-1975 revealed a Byzantine era monastery that stood from the 2nd Century to the 6th Century in Thyatira.



The ruins of Thyatira

Ancient Thyatira

Ruins of a 2nd – 6th Century Basilica in Thyatira

116
Revelation 2:18-29
Ruins of Ancient Thyatira
Akhisar, Manisa Province, Turkey

117. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE CHURCH AT SARDIS

Sart, Manisa Province, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 38° 29'17.78"N, 28° 2'24.70"E

"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are about to die, because I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; and hold firmly and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, because they are worthy. He who overcomes, these will be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."' Revelation 3:1-6

Sardis, now modern Sart, Turkey, is located along the junction of highways linking Ephesus, Smyrna and Pergamos. It was the capital of the Lydian Empire and during the reign of King Croetus, metallurgists discovered how to separate silver from gold in the alloy electrum. Pure silver and gold coins could now be minted in the capital of the Lydian Empire and Sardis and King Croetus soon became famous for its wealth. However, Persian King Cyrus conquered Croetus in 546 BC because its watchmen had not kept proper guard on a seemingly impenetrable part of the city. Hundreds of years later, in 17 AD, Sardis suffered a major earthquake that destroyed the city. It was rebuilt with the financial assistance from the Roman Emperor Tiberias and was exempted from taxes for 5 years. Excavations of the city in 1958 by G.M.A. Hanffman of Harvard, and Henry Detweiler of Cornell Universities, revealed a very large synagogue and a very impressive gymnasium and bath complex that dates back to the 2nd century. They also uncovered late Roman houses and shops and an industrial area to separate gold from silver. Much of the gym and bath complex structure is still intact and was a precursor to the more modern famous Turkish baths. Sadly, excavation revealed only a few Christian inscriptions in Sardis. The gospel came to Sardis years before the Apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation. The church at Sardis was once known to be a vibrant and living, but it was in fact dead and the church almost completely gone in 95 AD. Wealth and materialism and the desire for physical comforts had lured many into complacency and compromise. However, there were a few in Sardis who truly followed Jesus Christ and they walked with Jesus in white.

Gymnasium Complex of Sardis

Third Century Synagogue of Sardis

Late Roman Shops in Sardis

Synagogue, Gymnasium and Bath Complex of Sardis

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Revelation 3:1-6

Ruins of Ancient Sardis

Sart, Manisa Province, Turkey

118. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA

Alaşehir, Manisa Province, Turkey. ***Google Earth Coordinates: 38°20'58.20"N, 28°31'4.74"E***

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": "I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; because, you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but do lie, behold, I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Because you have kept My word to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial that will come upon the entire world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming suddenly! Hold firmly to what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, which is New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."' Revelation 3:7-13

Philadelphia, now modern Alaşehir, Turkey, is located in the valley of the Kuzuçay at the foot of the Bozdağ Mountain (it was called Mount Tmolus). King Eumenes II of Pergamon, who reigned from 197-160 BC, founded the city and named it for the love of his brother Attalus II, who reigned after him. Philadelphia comes from Phila (brotherly love), delphos (city) - the "City of Brotherly Love". In 17 AD, an earthquake badly damaged Philadelphia. In response, the Roman Emperor Tiberias exempted the city from having to pay taxes. In return, the Philadelphians honoured the Emperor for his generosity by naming the city NeoCaesarea (New Caesarea). The city had indeed received a new name. In Philadelphia, Christians were suffering persecution at the hands of Jews who were called by Jesus "The synagogue of Satan". The church received nothing but praise from Jesus Christ. Churches nowadays name their local church after Philadelphia since they were so faithful to Jesus Christ. In more recent times, during the Greco-Turkish war of 1919-1922, the Greek army occupied the city of Alaşehir (Philadelphia). Then when they left, they burned the city to the ground, destroying 70% of the city itself. An estimated 3,000 people died when the city was set on fire. What remains today of Philadelphia is the 11th Century church of St. John the Theologian which has mostly been destroyed.

The Church of St. John, Ancient Philadelphia, Alasehir, Turkey

Walking path within grounds of church

Location of the Ancient City of Philadelphia

Philadelphia in the 18th C.

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Revelation 3:7-13

Ruins of Ancient Philadelphia

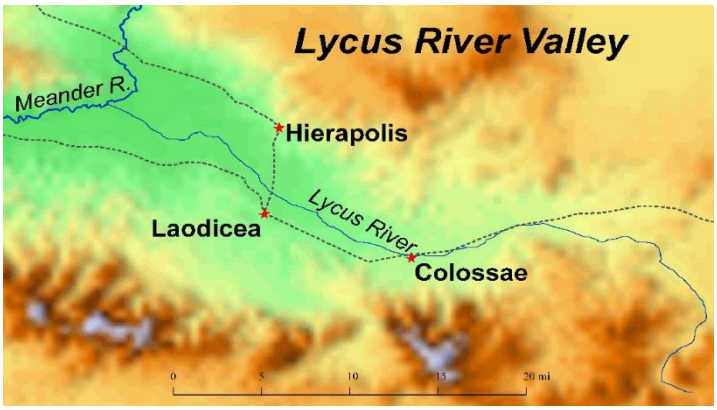
Alaşehir, Manisa Province, Turkey

119. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE CHURCH AT LAODICEA

Eskihisar, Denizli Province, Turkey. Google Earth Coordinates: 37° 50'10.57"N, 29° 6'32.49"E

"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the beginning of the creation of God: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, am increased with possessions, and have need of nothing,' but do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked; I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white clothing, that you may be clothed, so that the shame of your nakedness does not appear; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with Him, and he with Me. To him that overcomes will I allow to sit with Me on My throne, just as I also overcame and have sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."' Revelation 3:14-22 (KJV 2016)

The city of Laodicea was located 70 km southeast of Philadelphia and 160 km East of Ephesus on the southern bank of the Lycus River. The city grew to wealth during Roman times due to its sale of wool from black sheep which was woven in the city and coveted all across the Roman world. As well the city produced a paste which treated eye ailments. . The doctors were so famous that they had their names on coins. Laodicea was also known as a banking and money changing centre. The city was so wealthy that in 60 AD when the city was destroyed by an earthquake, no funds from Rome were necessary to rebuild. Excavations of ancient Laodicea showed marble everywhere, 2 theatres, a stadium and Christians in the city boasted that they were rich and had need of nothing in the first century. However, it had no pure water of its own. Its' water had to be supplied by an aqueduct which was10 km to the North in Denizli. By the time the hot water got to the city it was neither hot nor cold but was lukewarm. The church was wealthy and self-sufficient outwardly but inwardly and spiritually was impoverished, lukewarm in their faith was about to be vomited out of the mouth of Jesus and needed to repent.



Hot Springs which supplied Laodicea with water

Aqueduct with now calcified pipes that brought water to Laodicea

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Revelation 3:14-22

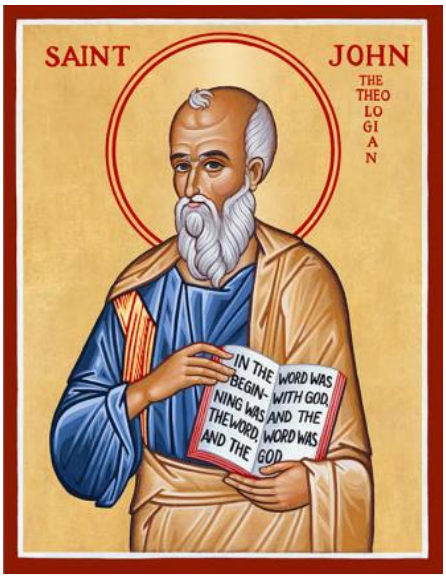
Ruins of Ancient Laodicea

Eskihisar, Denizli Province, Turkey

120. EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ST. JOHN (100 AD)

Place of Burial: Selçuk, İzmir Province, Turkey. ***Google Earth Coordinates: 37°57'11.98"N, 27°22'1.39"E***

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. Matthew 10:1-4 (KJV 2016)

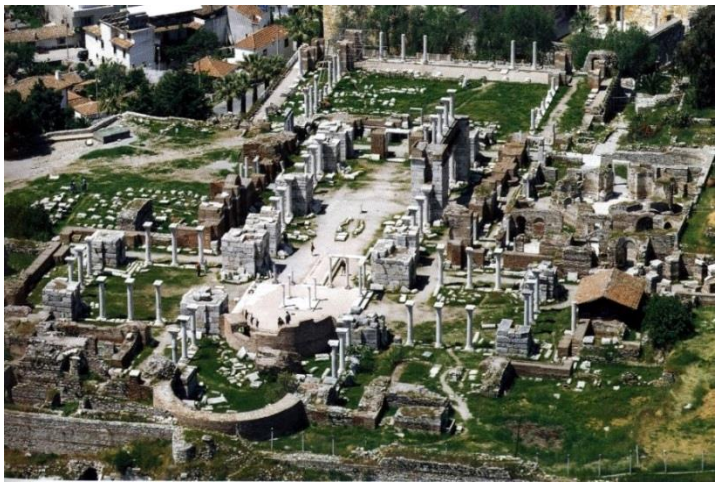


The Apostle John was the son of Zebedee and Salome and his brother James was also one of the other apostles who died many years earlier. He was born around 6 AD in Bethsaida and was first a follower of John the Baptist then became a disciple of Jesus Christ. He was one of the 3 closest disciples to Jesus. Often we read how Jesus took Peter, James and John with him. He and his brother, John, were called Boanerges, which means "sons of Thunder". It was John who sat next to Jesus at the last supper and the one who was referred to as "the one that Jesus loved". Jesus had a special bond with the Apostle John and no better sign of this was when Jesus was dying he gave the care of Mary His mother into the hands of John by saying to John "here is your mother" and to Mary "here is your son". The church historian Iraneus records that the Apostle John came to Ephesus in Asia Minor and became the Bishop of Ephesus. He would have brought Mary with him to Ephesus and she died around 46 AD. He remained strong in his faith, maintaining the gospel truths. According to tradition, the Apostle John was arrested under the Emperor Domitian and plunged into a pot of boiling oil in Rome. When he suffered no ill effects, John was taken and banished to the Island of Patmos. When the Emperor died, the new Emperor freed the Apostle John from the Island of Patmos. He went back to Ephesus and continued to be bishop until his peaceful death in 100 AD. In 400 AD, 300 years after his death, a stone church was erected at the place of his death. The Emperor Justinian then built a huge cross-shaped Basilica with domes in 537 AD. Today ruins mark the location of St. John's Basilica in ancient Ephesus.

St. John in Boiling Oil in Rome

The Entrance of St. John's Basilica

The Tomb of the Apostle John, Ancient Ephesus



St. John's Basilica, Ancient Ephesus

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Matthew 10:1-4
Grave of St. John the Apostle
Selçuk, Izmir Province, Turkey